SS comics
最上の命医
1
[取材・原作]
入江謙三
橋口たかし
KENZO IRIE + TAKASHI HASHIGUCHI PRESENTS
[医療監修]
東京大学教授 岩中 督
SS comics
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[取材・原作]入江謙三
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小学館
SSC 1365

1
Research and Story
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THE
BEST SKILLED
SURGEON
最上の命医

THE BEST SKILLED SURGEON

1

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THIS IS A VIDEO OF A SURGERY TO FIX TRANSPOSITION OF THE GREAT VESSELS

SUPER SPEED VHS

▶ 00:05

SFX VMM

CHAPTER 1: INFINITE BRANCHES

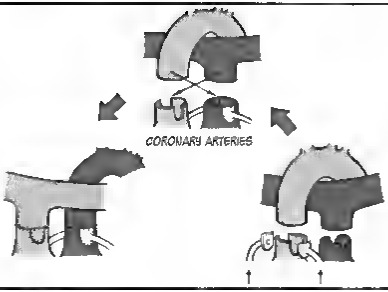
HEALTHY HEART

TRANSPOSITION OF THE GREAT VESSELS

ABOUT ONE IN TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH THE TWO GREAT VESSELS OF THE HEART CROSSED.

1

THIS OPERATION NOT ONLY RECONNECTS THE TWO VESSELS,

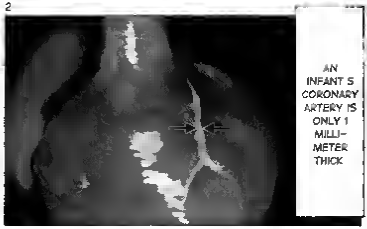


CORONARY ARTERIES

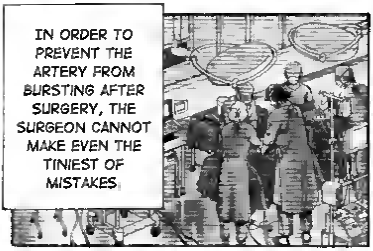
BUT ALSO REQUIRES RECONNECTING THE SMALL CORONARY ARTERIES TO THE OTHER SIDES AS WELL.

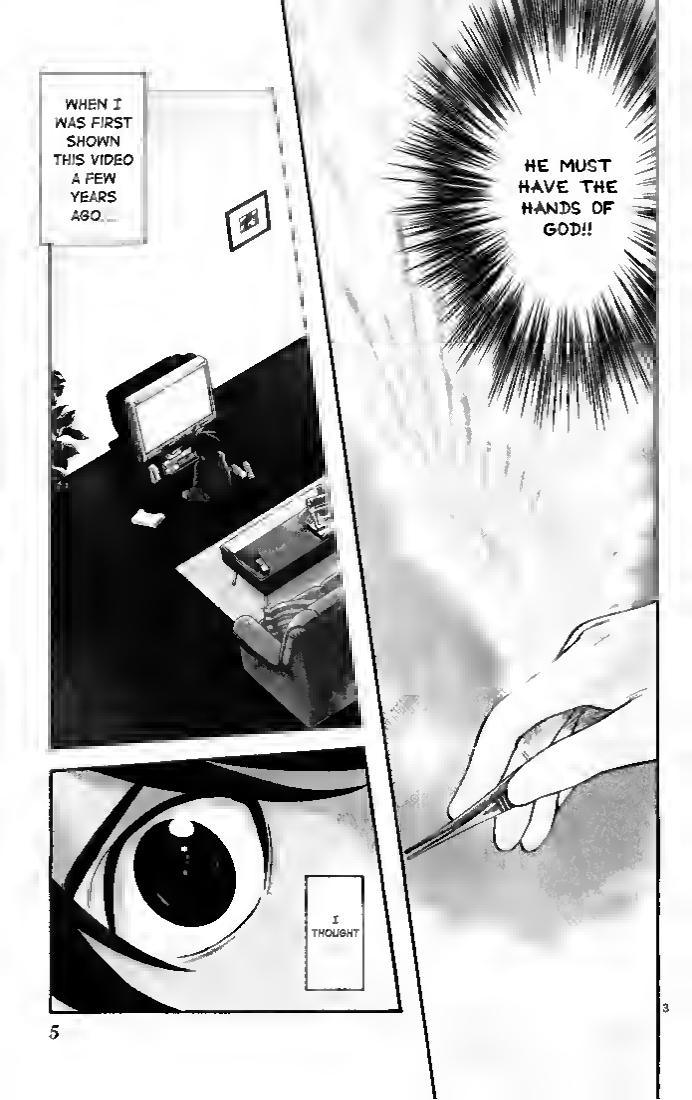
THE PATIENT IN THE VIDEO IS ME AGED 0
SAIJOU MIKOTO, AGE 10

2


AN INFANT'S CORONARY ARTERY IS ONLY 1 MILLIMETER THICK

THE SURGEON IS DR. SHINDOU MAMORU, A PEDIATRIC HEART SURGEON AT THE SAIHAMA MEDICAL CENTER


IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE ARTERY FROM BURSTING AFTER SURGERY, THE SURGEON CANNOT MAKE EVEN THE TINIEST OF MISTAKES.

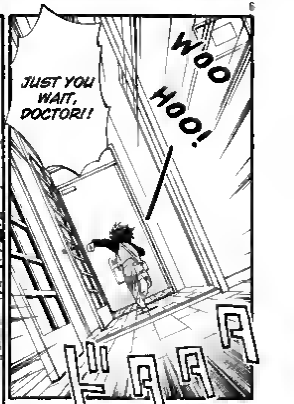

WHEN I WAS FIRST SHOWN THIS VIDEO A FEW YEARS AGO...
I THOUGHT
HE MUST HAVE THE HANDS OF GOD!!

I WANT TO BECOME THE MOST SKILLED SURGEON! ONE EVEN BETTER THAN THIS DOCTOR!
CHAPTER 1
INFINITE BRANCHES

THE
BEST SKILLED
SURGEON
最上の命医

I BET
PERFECT!
YEAAHH!!
NO, I KNOW..
KEEP ON
THAT THE DOCTOR WILL SAY I'M GOOD NOW!!

SAIHAMA MEDICAL CENTE


JUST YOU WAIT, DOCTOR!!
WOO HOO!
SFX DADADA (RUNNING)

SFX TATATATAA

7

SFX BANG

SFX RUSTLE

DOC. .
...TOR?

HEL-LO?
ソロ～リ
ソロ～リ
SFX CREEP

DOC-TOR?

GOTCHA! THAT'S JUST A HUMAN MODEL...
ke ke
HE HE HE HE
DOCTOR SHINDOU MAMORU

Pop! turn
DOESN'T IT COST LIKE 7 MILLION YEN?
WOW!!
IT'S THE NEWEST WDI 01738 DISASSEMBLEABLE ANATOMY MODEL!!
UMM
I ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE THESE BITS APART~~
In love
SFX: SLIDE

DUMBASS MEDICAL BOY.....
DR. SHINDOU!
THE REAL
DR SHINDOU MAMORU
WHAT THE HECK IS IN YOUR HEAD THAT MAKES YOU LIKE PLAYING WITH ANATOMY MODELS!?
IN MY HEAD?

PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE THIS
.....

ANYWAY, CHECK THIS OUT!
pull
I USED THE FIRST AID KIT YOU GAVE ME .
TO SEW MYSELF UP!
WOW

SFX TA-DAAA!

SO TELL ME!! WHY YOU DECIDED TO BECOME A PEDIATRIC SURGEON!

YOU GOT IT.
IT... IT'S PERFECT...!! ...AND THAT TECHNIQUE
IT'S A BURIED SUTURE, ISN'T IT?

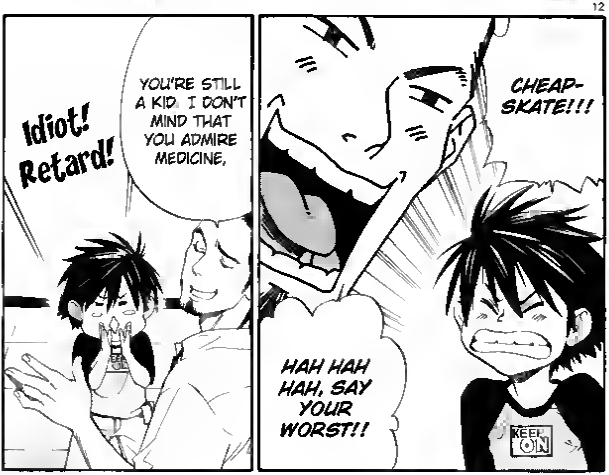
WHY NOT!?
WHAA ??

11

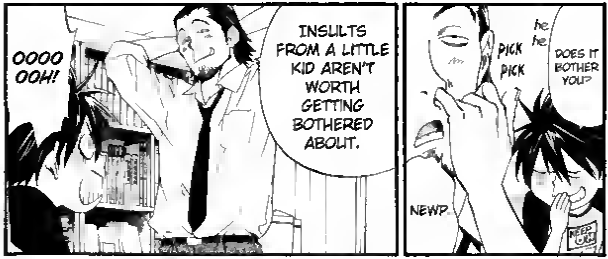
YOU SAID, RIGHT? "I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I CAN SEE YOUR SKILL"...
I KNOW I ONLY USED TOFU AND PORK TO PRACTICE ON BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME IT'S THE REAL THING!
NO.
YOU DID THE REAL THING BEFORE, TOO

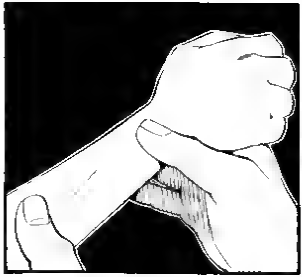
I ALREADY KNOW THAT YOU'RE KIND, HARD-WORKING, AND SKILLED
IF YOU HADN'T HELPED IT, IT WOULD'VE DIED FOR SURE
THAT DOG THAT GOT IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT NEAR YOUR HOUSE .....
THAT'S A SECRET
THEN WHY...

12


Idiot! Retard!
YOU'RE STILL A KID. I DON'T MIND THAT YOU ADMIRE MEDICINE,
CHEAP-SKATE!!!
HAH HAH HAH, SAY YOUR WORST!!
KEEP ON

WHAT DID YOU SAY?~~
...YOU TOLD ME TO SAY MY WORST.
Dumb fat brat
Asshole
Pervert Pig
Child Abusing
Sadist!
BUT REAL MEDICINE ISN'T JUST SKILL
KEEP OUT!

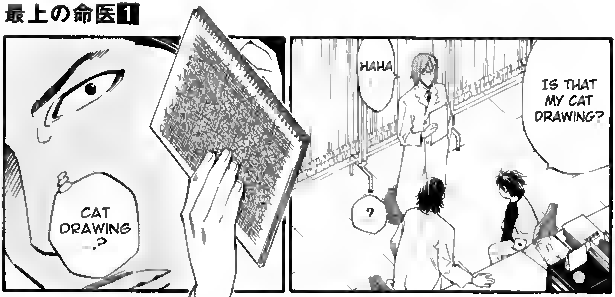

OOOO OOH!
INSULTS FROM A LITTLE KID AREN'T WORTH GETTING BOTHERED ABOUT.
he he
PICK PICK
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
NEWP
KEEP OUT!

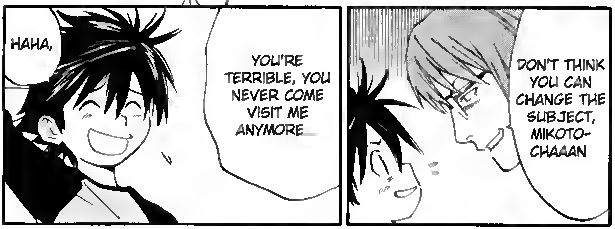


KEKE KEKE KE
DAMN IT!!

WELL, THAT WOULD'VE BEEN OKAY TOO,
IT'S NOT OKAY!
BY THE WAY, HOW'D YOU GET THIS CUT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DID IT TO YOURSELF SO YOU COULD PRACTICE
LAST NIGHT, MY DAD'S KILN EXPLODED,
SO ALL THE SHARDS JUST FLEW AT ME.
AND YOU'RE STILL ALIVE? .....
SFX KABOOOM

DAD GOES ABROAD A LOT FOR HIS WORK, BUT HE BLOWS UP HIS KILNS SO OFTEN THAT HE GETS DEPORTED.
Aa, ano, I came back!
YOU SHOULD TELL HIM TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF HIS KILNS, FOR THE SAKE OF HIS FAMILY.
IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE
YOUR DAD'S THE GUY WHO MAKES ALL THOSE WEIRD SCULPTURES AROUND TOWN, RIGHT?
pot pot
I MISSED YOU
OPHTHALMOLOGIST MERA MASAYOSHI
ME... MERA-SAN!
WHAT KINDA FAMILY DO YOU HAVE...
OUR FAMILY JUST THINKS THAT KILNS ARE MADE FOR BLOWING UP!
THERE YOU ARE, MIKOTO-CHAN!


CAT DRAWING...?
HAHA
?
IS THAT MY CAT DRAWING?


HAHA,
YOU'RE TERRIBLE. YOU NEVER COME VISIT ME ANYMORE...
DON'T THINK YOU CAN CHANGE THE SUBJECT, MIKOTO-CHAAAN

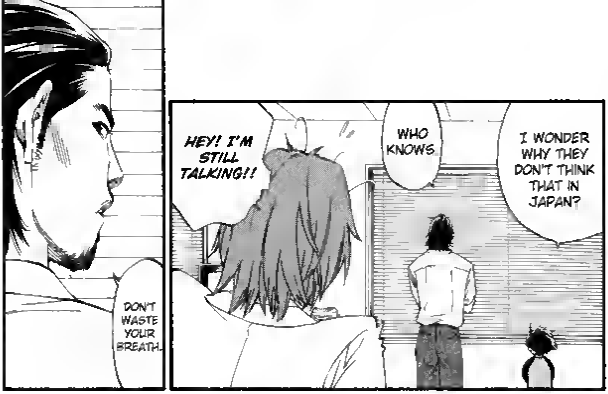
16

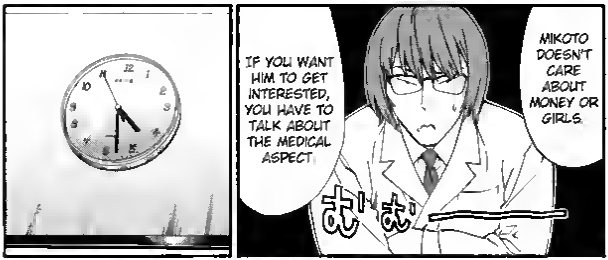
THERE ARE SO FEW PEDIATRIC SURGEONS THESE DAYS THAT IT'S BECOMING A SOCIAL PROBLEM!
WHAT! YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT...
I'M SORRY. IT'S BECAUSE I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME THE MOST SKILLED PEDIATRIC SURGEON.

IN AMERICA, THEY CONSIDER PEDIATRIC SURGEONS TO BE THE MOST SKILLED SURGEONS, BUT NOT IN JAPAN ...
CHILDREN HAVE SMALLER AND MORE FRAGILE ORGANS THAN ADULTS, SO SURGERY IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.
SO TRUE

REAL-LY?
YEAH, I CAN'T DENY THAT.
TAKE SHINDOU-CHAN. HE HAS SOME FREE TIME BECAUSE IT'S A WEEKEND, BUT HE CAN'T LEAVE THE HOSPITAL WHEN HE'S ON CALL ..
BUT WHY? IT'S SUCH A COOL JOB.
BECAUSE IT'S HARD.

ON TOP OF THAT, A LOT OF JAPANESE ARE SHORT-SIGHTED... SO THERE ARE SO MANY CHANCES TO MEET CUTE GIRLS WITH GLASSES...
AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST GETS COMPARATIVELY WELL COMPENSATED FOR EACH APPOINTMENT, AND AN EYE DOCTOR WILL BE ONE OF THE TOP EARNERS IN ANY HOSPITAL. AT MOST HOSPITALS, WE EVEN GET A BIGGER SALARY.
SO IF YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR, YOU GOTTA GET INTO THE MOST POPULAR AREA: EYES!
SFX GLINT
SFX HEEHEEHEE


DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH.
HEY! I'M STILL TALKING!!
WHO KNOWS.
I WONDER WHY THEY DON'T THINK THAT IN JAPAN?


IF YOU WANT HIM TO GET INTERESTED, YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE MEDICAL ASPECT.
MIKOTO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MONEY OR GIRLS.
おぉぉ

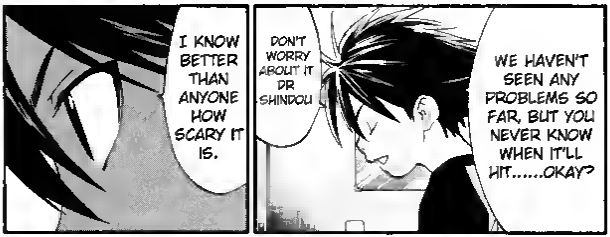
SFX GRRR

18

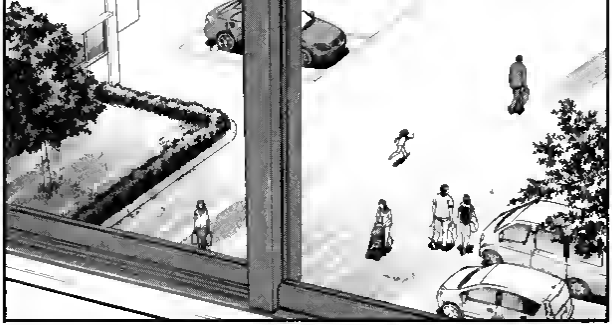
WHY?
I GOTTA GO, IT'S GETTING LATE.
YOU HAVE PLANS?
ACK.

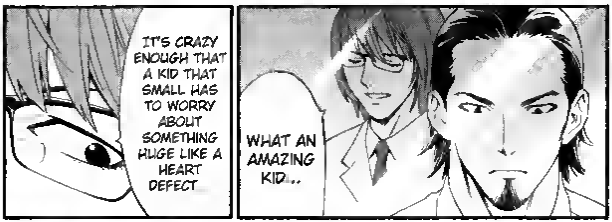
WE'RE GOING TO GO TO SAIHAMA ROCK IN A ROWBOAT. YOU CAN SEE THE ROCK FROM THE HARBOR
YEAH, MY DAD HAS A FRIEND WHO'S A FISHERMAN. WE'RE GOING FISHING AT SAIHAMA WHEN THE FISH START BITING
I WANT SOME TASTY FISH!
MAN THAT SOUNDS GREAT! NO FAIR, I HAVEN'T FISHED IN YEARS!
OKAY THEN.
19
GOT IT! SEE YOU LATER!
I'LL CATCH A LOT OF TUNA AND BRING THEM BACK HERE!
SFX: KA (BURST OF ENERGY)
There aren't any bonito, either...
JUST BRING US BACK SOME BONITO, OKAY?
THERE AREN'T ANY TUNA IN SAIHAMA, YOU IDIOT!
OH, WAIT A SEC...

I'M SURE YOU KNOW, BUT WHEN KIDS WHO HAD TGA SURGERY GET TO ABOUT YOUR AGE, THERE IS SOMETIMES BACKFLOW OF THE BLOOD.


I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE HOW SCARY IT IS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT DR SHINDOU
WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY PROBLEMS SO FAR, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN IT'LL HIT.....OKAY?

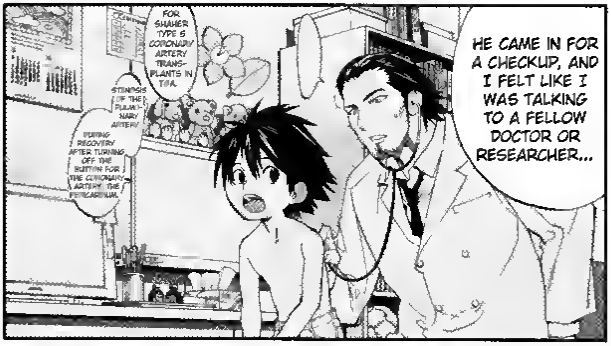
I'LL CALL IF I FEEL DIFFERENT AT ALL.
later
YEAH, YOU BETTER!
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE A DOCTOR.



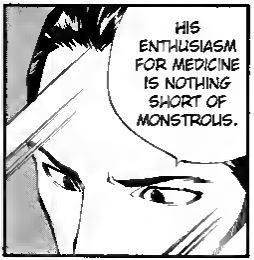

IT'S CRAZY ENOUGH THAT A KID THAT SMALL HAS TO WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING HUGE LIKE A HEART DEFECT
WHAT AN AMAZING KID...

TWO YEARS AGO, AFTER HE CAME BACK FROM SOME TIME ABROAD...

HE'S A MONSTER.
BUT IT'S LIKE IT DOESN'T BOTHER HIM AT ALL.


HE CAME IN FOR A CHECKUP, AND I FELT LIKE I WAS TALKING TO A FELLOW DOCTOR OR RESEARCHER...
FOR SHAVER TYPE B CORONARY ARTERY TRANS-PLANTS IN T/A.
STRINGS OF THE PULMO-NARY ARTERY.
DURING RECOVERY AFTER TURNING OFF THE BUTTON FOR THE CORONARY ARTERY THE PERICARDIUM.

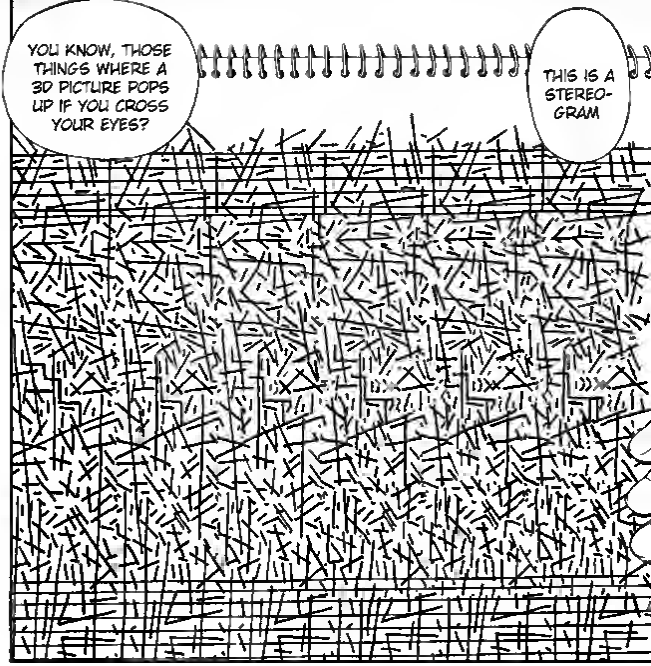
I CAN SEE WHY ALL THE DOCTORS HERE LIKE MIKOTO.
HEHE HE...
KEEP ON


HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR MEDICINE IS NOTHING SHORT OF MONSTROUS.

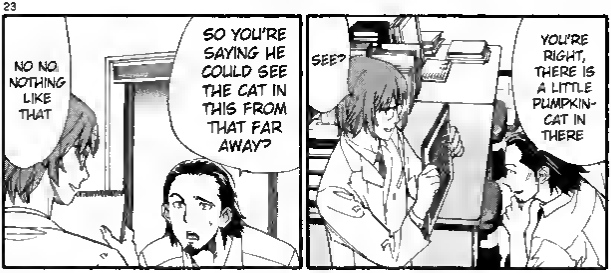
I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THAT. HOW IS THAT A CAT?

OH...
I MEAN, THIS CAT...

BUT HIS ENTHUSIASM ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES HIM A MONSTER.


YOU KNOW, THOSE THINGS WHERE A 3D PICTURE POPS UP IF YOU CROSS YOUR EYES?
THIS IS A STEREO-GRAM

23

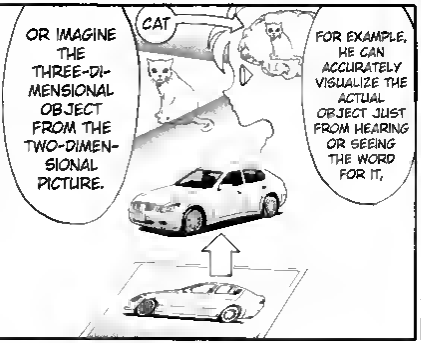

NO NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT
SO YOU'RE SAYING HE COULD SEE THE CAT IN THIS FROM THAT FAR AWAY?
SEE?
YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE IS A LITTLE PUMPKIN-CAT IN THERE

NORMALLY, YOU HAVE TO USE MACHINES TO MAKE THESE THINGS, BUT MIKOTO-CHAN CAN DRAW IT AS HE VISUALIZES THE THREE DIMENSIONAL OBJECT IN HIS HEAD.

MIKOTO-CHAN DREW THIS.
!

SPACIAL VISUAL-IZATION

HE HAS EXTRAORDI-NARY SPACIAL VISUALIZING SKILLS.

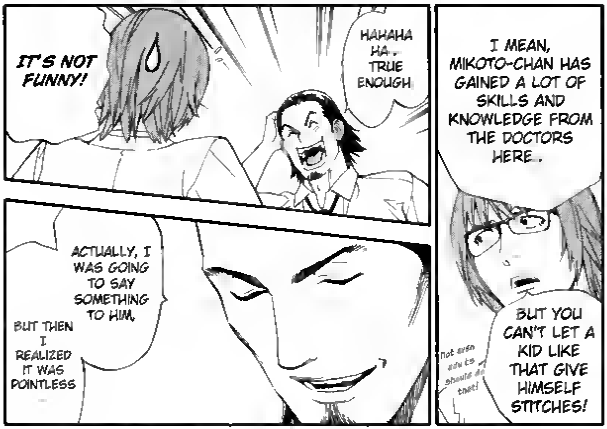

OR IMAGINE THE THREE-DI-MENSIONAL OBJECT FROM THE TWO-DIMEN-SIONAL PICTURE.
CAT
FOR EXAMPLE, HE CAN ACCURATELY VISUALIZE THE ACTUAL OBJECT JUST FROM HEARING OR SEEING THE WORD FOR IT.

HE CAN PICTURE THE BRAIN, BLOOD VESSELS, ORGAN LAYOUTS - ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW COMPLEX
EVEN DOCTORS HAVE A HARD TIME ACCURATELY VISUALIZING COMPLEX SHAPES LIKE BODIES, MUCH LESS STEREOGRAMS .. BUT MIKOTO-CHAN IS DIFFERENT!
WHAT?
SO THAT'S HOW...
HIS FATHER'S A WORLD-FAMOUS SCULPTOR. MAYBE THAT'S WHERE HE GETS IT FROM.
WELL, BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP TODAY, MIKOTO WAS SHOWING ME THE SUTURES HE DID ON HIS ARM..
HUH!

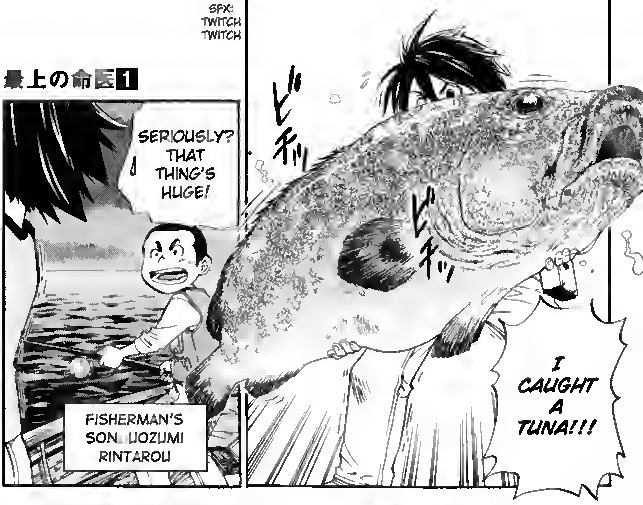
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE HAD A KNACK FOR THIS STUFF, BUT...
AS A PROFES-SIONAL, I CAN SAY THAT IT WAS SUTURED DEEPLY AND FIRMLY. IT WAS PERFECT!

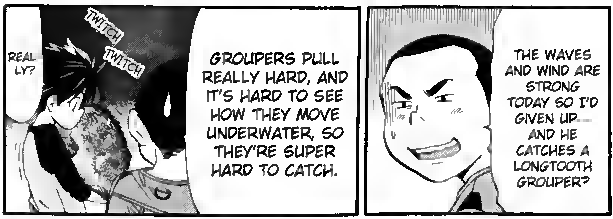
SHINDOU-CHAN, I CAN UNDERSTAND BEING IMPRESSED...
I GUESS HE CAN DO THAT BECAUSE HE CAN VISUALIZE THE CROSS-SECTION OF THE NEEDLE AND THREAD IN 3D...

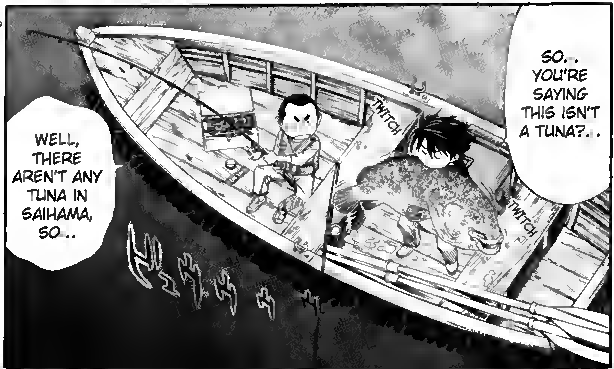
26


IT'S NOT FUNNY!
HAHAHA HA. TRUE ENOUGH.
I MEAN, MIKOTO-CHAN HAS GAINED A LOT OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM THE DOCTORS HERE.
ACTUALLY, I WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING TO HIM,
BUT THEN I REALIZED IT WAS POINTLESS
BUT YOU CAN'T LET A KID LIKE THAT GIVE HIMSELF STITCHES!
Not even close to shoulder tape!

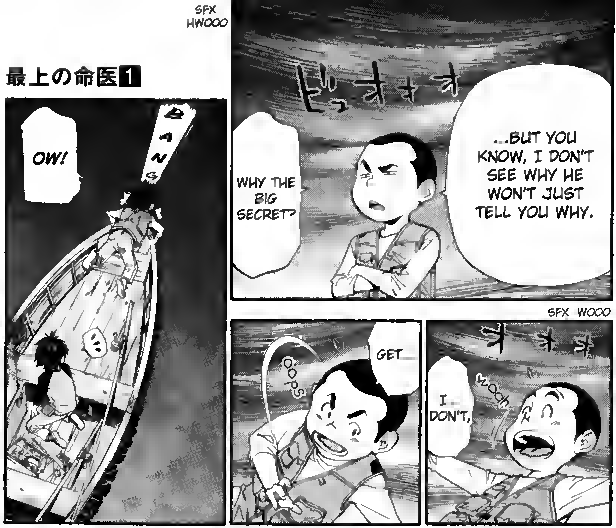
ONCE I FIGURED OUT HOW, AS A RIGHT-HANDED KID, HE'D STITCHED HIS OWN RIGHT ARM!
HERE IT COMES!!
SAITAMA PUNT
SFX: ZUM (WHOOSH)
SFX: BOOM
OH YEAH!!
27


SFX: TWITCH TWITCH
SERIOUSLY? THAT THING'S HUGE!
FISHERMAN'S SON UOZUMI RINTAROU
I CAUGHT A TUNA!!!


REAL LY?
TWITCH
TWITCH
GROUPERS PULL REALLY HARD, AND IT'S HARD TO SEE HOW THEY MOVE UNDERWATER, SO THEY'RE SUPER HARD TO CATCH.
THE WAVES AND WIND ARE STRONG TODAY SO I'D GIVEN UP— AND HE CATCHES A LONGTOOTH GROUPER?


SFX: HWOOO
SO.. YOU'RE SAYING THIS ISN'T A TUNA?..
TWITCH
TWITCH
WELL, THERE AREN'T ANY TUNA IN SAIHAMA, SO..

JERK
WOAH HEY WAIT!!
GACK
YOU'RE SO NICE! THE BEST THING IS TO CATCH AND RELEASE...
IN THAT CASE, I FEEL BAD. GUESS I'LL LET HIM GO..
YEAH MAN!
LEGEN-DARY!?
THE LONGTOOTH GROUPER ISN'T A TUNA, BUT IT'S REALLY TASTY! IT'S A LEGENDARY FISH!!
YOU REALLY THINK SO!?
YEAH! THAT FISH IS REALLY AMAZING!
IF YOU SHOW THAT TO THAT DR. SHINDOU OF YOURS, MAYBE HE'LL EVEN TELL YOU WHY HE DECIDED TO BECOME A PEDIATRIC SURGEON!
!


SFX HWOOO
...BUT YOU KNOW, I DON'T SEE WHY HE WON'T JUST TELL YOU WHY.
WHY THE BIG SECRET?
SFX WOOO
GET...
OOPS!
I DON'T,
WOOH
BANG
OW!
OF COURSE I AM! I'M A MAN OF THE SEA!
OWWW..
ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST CONCENTRATE ON CATCHING MORE FISH FOR YOUR DOCTOR!!
OKAY
SFX BWOOO

SFX
GRAASH

WOW SHINDOU-CHAN, I'M IMPRESSED!
THERE'S AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOU IN THIS MEDICAL JOURNAL.
IT SAYS, "CROSSING THE 1-HOUR WALL!" "TGA SURGERY IN 57 MINUTES!" "FASTEST MAN IN JAPAN!"

31

IF YOU'RE SO BORED, GO HOME
YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE THE COOLEST!
I CAN SEE WHY MIKOTO-CHAN LOOKS UP TO YOU.
HEH, TYPICAL.
NOT WHEN I'M GOING TO GET SOME DELICIOUS, FRESHLY-CAUGHT FISH!
AH, BUT I CAN'T GO HOME
Since you're dead with eyes
NOT LIKE YOU'RE ON CALL OR ANYTHING.

32

I'M WAITING TO HEAR YOUR STORY.
CLOSE
BESIDES,

I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
BUT WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT?
!
ABOUT HOW SAIHAMA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY WANTS YOU TO BE A PROFESSOR.

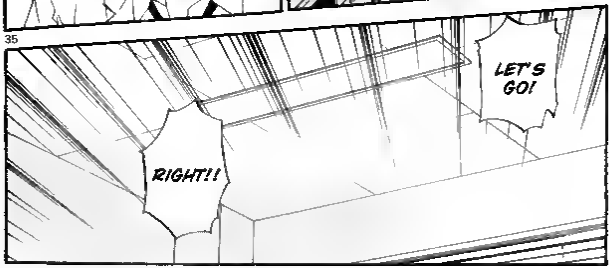
33

M-MIKOTO ..?
THAT AND THE REASON WHY YOU BECAME A PEDIATRIC SURGEON. WHY DO YOU WANT TO HIDE IT FROM MIKOTO-CHAN?
WELL .. THAT'S...
I KNOW YOU'RE MORE IMPRESSED WITH HIM THAN ANYBODY, SO WHY'RE YOU SO MEAN?

It's not me!!!
WHAT'S WRONG!? DON'T TELL ME YOU...
HELLO?
WHAT?
WH-WHY WOULD HE CALL!?
I SEE...
OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, SO STAY PUT!
!?
SFX URRGH
34
WE'RE STILL ON THE OCEAN MY FRIEND SUDDENLY GRABBED HIS CHEST AND COLLAPSED...
KEEP ON

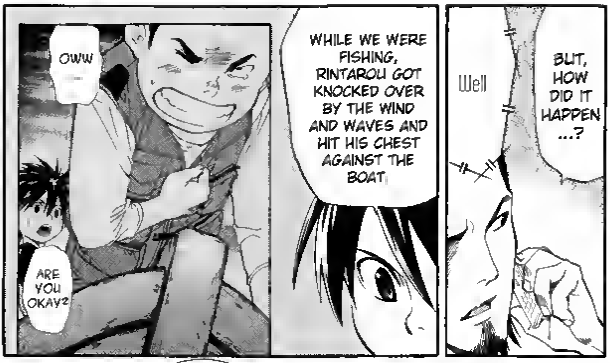
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY, BUT MIKOTO'S FRIEND SUDDENLY GOT SICK ON THE BOAT.
bip
WHAT HAP-PENED!?

IT'S ALREADY DARK. IT'S SAFER IF YOU GO WITH SOMEBODY TO THE SEA.
SAIHAMA PORT IS LIKE A MINUTE AWAY, I'LL JUST GO STRAIGHT THERE.
THANKS, I APPRECIATE IT.
I'LL GO TOO!


35
LET'S GO!
RIGHT!!

DAMN.
THIS IS ROUGH . .
I'LL CALL AIR-SEA RESCUE JUST IN CASE.
THANKS.
THERE'S NO MOON TONIGHT. I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHERE MIKOTO'S BOAT IS. .
36
SFX: BRAKE

bip
MIKOTO, WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M AT THE PORT RIGHT NOW. .
mmm
How's your friend doing?
NOT WELL.
I DON'T KNOW . THE CURRENT IS REALLY FAST, AND THE BOAT'S JUST GETTING CARRIED AWAY.
37
Good job
HIS BLOOD PRESSURE'S DOWN, SO I'M COOLING HIS HEAD AND I RAISED HIS LEGS, BUT...

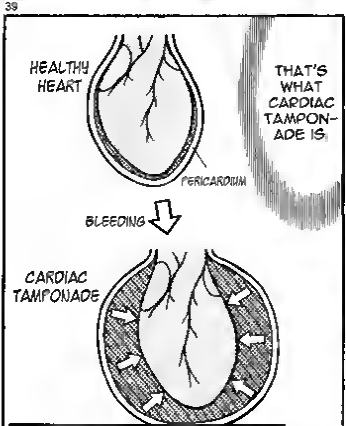

OWW
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHILE WE WERE FISHING, RINTAROU GOT KNOCKED OVER BY THE WIND AND WAVES AND HIT HIS CHEST AGAINST THE BOAT.
Well
BUT, HOW DID IT HAPPEN ...?

TRAUMATIC CARDIAC TAMPONADE!

HE WAS FINE THEN, BUT THEN HE SUDDENLY PALED.. IT'S HARD TO HEAR HIS HEART NOW..

I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS ..
Dr Shindou

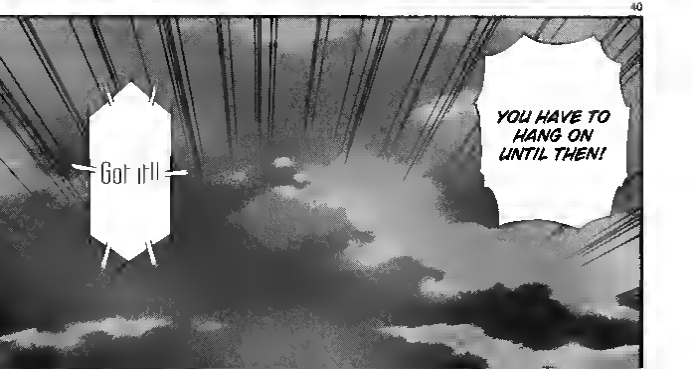
39



IF YOU'RE TACKLED OR HIT SOMETHING LIKE A DESK, THE SHOCK CAN SOMETIMES CAUSE THE HEART TO HEMORRHAGE INTO THE PERICARDIUM...

● THE EXTRA FLUID IN THE PERICARDIUM PUTS PRESSURE ON THE HEART

Is he conscious!?
YEAH, BUT HURRY!!
IF THERE'S TOO MUCH BLOOD IN THE PERICARDIUM, THE HEART WILL BE PUT UNDER TOO MUCH PRESSURE VERY QUICKLY, AND THE PATIENT CAN DIE!!
SFX ZAAAN
THE CYANOSIS IS GETTING WORSE!!
KEEP ON!
WE'LL GO LOOK FOR YOU IN A BOAT!

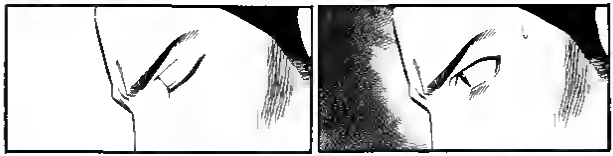

YOU HAVE TO HANG ON UNTIL THEN!
Got it!!

41

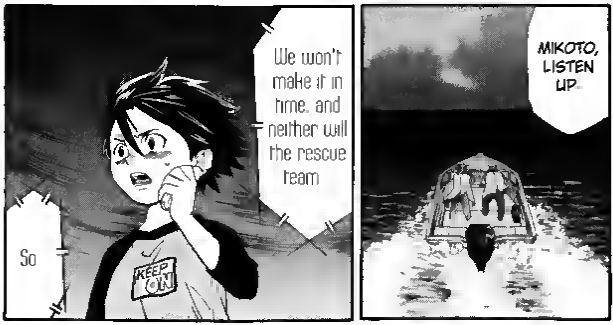
SFX: BABARA

SFX: BABARABA

SHINDOU-CHAN! NOW WHAT!?
His breath is getting ragged!!
EVEN IF THE RESCUE TEAM COMES, IN THIS DARKNESS IT'LL TAKE TIME...
Damn
SFX GRIT...



42


We won't make it in time, and neither will the rescue team
So
KEEP ON
MIKOTO, LISTEN UP...

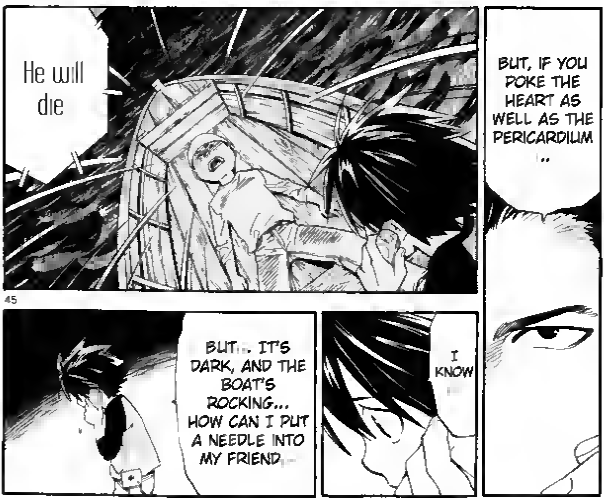
You're going to save that kid.

13

BUT THE RESCUE TEAM WILL BE HERE SOON!
HE CAN DO IT.
SHI SHINDOU -CHAN
WAIT, WHAT'RE YOU SAYING!?
DON'T WORRY, MERA.

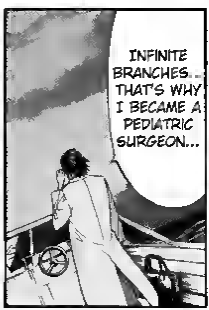
I'LL LOSE MY CHANCE AT THE PROFESSOR-SHIP, AND I MIGHT EVEN LOSE MY LICENSE RIGHT?
EXACT-LY.
IF IT GOT OUT THAT YOU MADE HIM DO IT... EVEN IF IT WORKED...
Then I don't need them.
!
44
OH,
do?
Or dou!?
SHI-SHINDOU -CHAN-

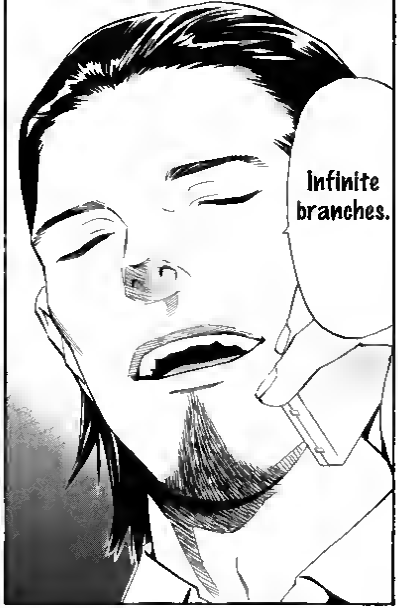
RIGHT.
A needle is inserted to let the blood out, right?
?
Sorry about that
Y, YEAH.
!!!
You know how to treat cardiac tamponade?


He will die
BUT, IF YOU POKE THE HEART AS WELL AS THE PERICARDIUM ..
BUT... IT'S DARK, AND THE BOAT'S ROCKING... HOW CAN I PUT A NEEDLE INTO MY FRIEND...
I KNOW

45

HUH ...?


INFINITE BRANCHES... THAT'S WHY I BECAME A PEDIATRIC SURGEON...


Infinite branches.

46

WHEN I WAS STILL IN MEDICAL SCHOOL...

It's what you always wanted to know
KEEP ON

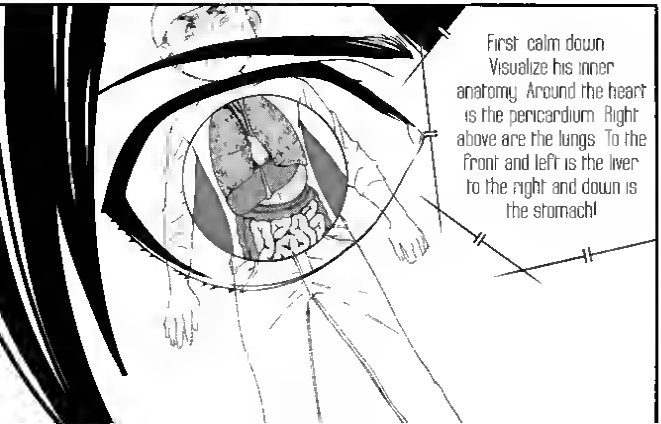
SHE WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT.
THANKS TO HIM SAVING HER WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD, SHE WAS ABLE TO MEET A NICE MAN, AND HAVE ALL THESE CHILDREN!
A WOMAN CAME WITH HER CHILDREN TO VISIT A PROFESSOR IN THE PEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED.
!!!
47
IT ALSO SAVES THE LIVES OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF FUTURE FRIENDS AND CHILDREN...
PEDIATRICS DOESN'T JUST SAVE THE LIFE THAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...

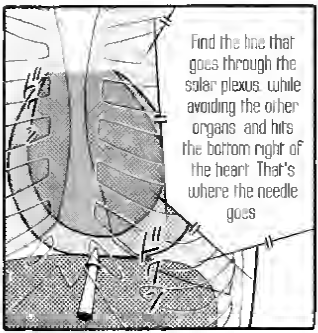
PEDIATRICS SAVES THE PEOPLE ON THE BRANCHES OF THE INFINITE TREE DIAGRAM OF LIFE
48
!
Mikoto
KEEP ON
You're the only one who can save the branches of the tree of that kid

I'LL DO IT!!
So
OKAY
KE
GET AN INDWELLING NEEDLE READY.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT
THANKS MIKOTO,

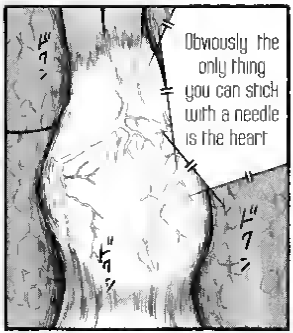
But don't do it too quickly

ヒュー
H
H
H
H
SFX: FWOOOO

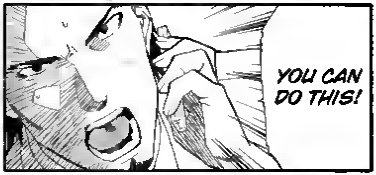

First calm down
Visualize his inner anatomy. Around the heart is the pericardium. Right above are the lungs. To the front and left is the liver to the right and down is the stomach!


Find the line that goes through the solar plexus, while avoiding the other organs and hits the bottom right of the heart. That's where the needle goes

SFX THUMP THUMP

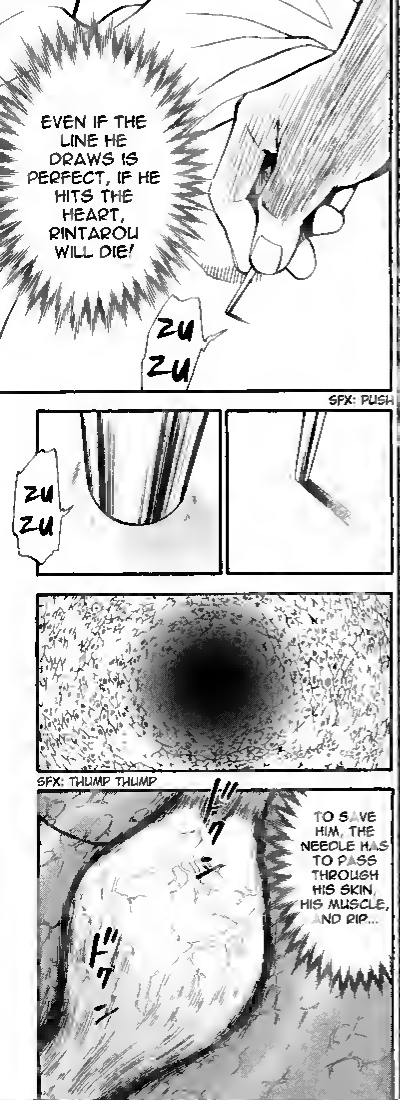


SFX THUMP THUMP THUMP



SFX PIIIN (INTENSE CONCENTRATION)

SFX: FWOOO
BUT BE CAREFUL CHILDREN'S' HEARTS ARE SMALL
OKAY.
I SEE IT!!
52
Especially with the rocking you have to stop pushing the instant you hit the pericardium or you'll stab the heart
GOT IT!
SFX: KA!


EVEN IF THE LINE HE DRAWS IS PERFECT, IF HE HITS THE HEART, RINTAROU WILL DIE!
ZU ZU
SFX: PUSH
ZU ZU
SFX: THUMP THUMP
TO SAVE HIM, THE NEEDLE HAS TO PASS THROUGH HIS SKIN, HIS MUSCLE, NO RIP...

24
THE PERICAR-DIUM
THUMP
THUMP
SFX: STOP
HERE!! I HAVE TO STOP THE NEEDLE HERE!!
MIKOTO
55
MIKOTO -CHAN

Aaaah!!!
WHAT HAPPENED !?
DR. SHINDOU !!
SPX PSSHHHUUU

SFX: PSHUUU
RELAX, THAT'S JUST THE ACCUMULATED BLOOD.
HIS BLOOD IS SPURTING OUT!

HIS BREATHING IS STABILIZING !!
haa
haa
Check his breathing
It's stable!
IF YOU DID IT RIGHT, THEN...

YOU DIDN'T JUST SAVE HIM...
PERFECT!
AMAZING, MIKOTO
You saved his infinite possibilities!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER
WAH AHA HA!
HE'S DOING THAT GOOD, EH?
YEAH, ALMOST TOO GOOD!
THAT'S GREAT!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU
Y... YEAH...

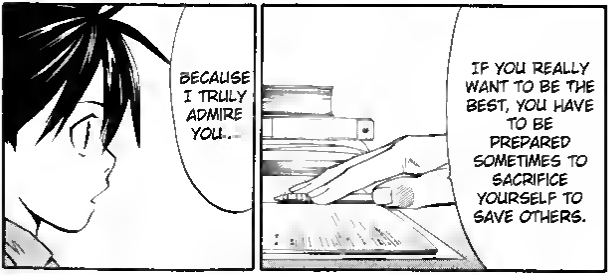
THAT YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE TO BE A PROFESSOR BECAUSE OF IT...
I HEARD.
...I GUESS, BUT...
WHAT?
.....

IT'S A GOOD STORY, AND I DON'T THINK YOU NEEDED TO HIDE IT.
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE ABOUT THE INFINITE BRANCHES?
MIKOTO, I...

MONEY AND WOMEN... HAVING AN INSPIRING GOAL OR MOTIVATION... BECOMING A PROFESSOR... THEY ALL SOUND GREAT.
!
DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ONLY THE COOL SIDE OF MEDICINE.

HEARD IT BEFORE?
THERE'S A SAYING IN MEDICINE:
"THE GREATEST DOCTOR WILL FALL TO HELL"

61


BECAUSE I TRULY ADMIRE YOU...
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE THE BEST, YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED SOMETIMES TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF TO SAVE OTHERS.

I SEE...
I WANTED TO BE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT FIRST.
WH, WHY?
YOU FAIL!
NOPE.
GET IT?
HE HE HE...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

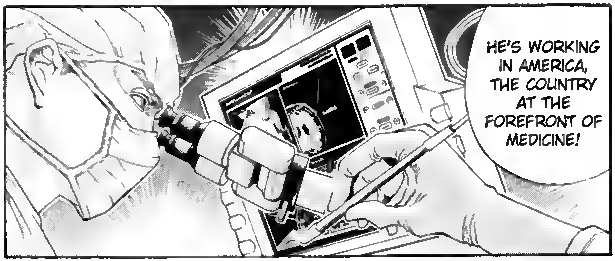
SFX: TA
SFX: RUN
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO HAVE A SECRET!
HEY!!
HEY LISTEN, DOCTORS AREN'T ALL...
HEE HEE HEE...
63

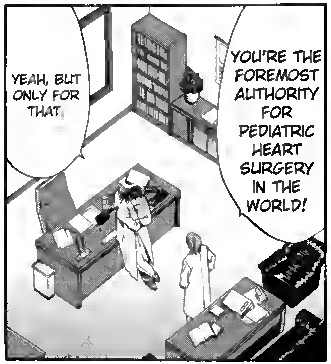
THERE'S NO POINT TRYING TO HIDE THE COOL SIDE OF BEING A DOCTOR
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?
CUZ... YOU'RE WAY TOO COOL!

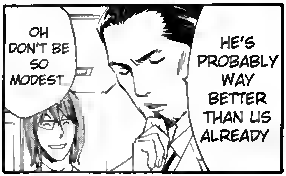
10 OR SO YEARS LATER
SAIKAMA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
KNOCK
KNOCK

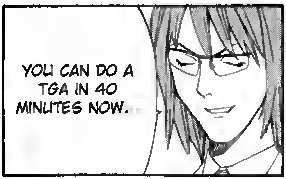
HELLO PROFES-SOR SHINDOU
COME IN
OH, MERA
AND WILL YOU QUIT CALLING ME PROFES-SOR?
JUST KEEP CALLING ME "CHAN" LIKE BEFORE
OH I WOULD NEVER!
YOU WORKED SO HARD FOR OVER 10 YEARS TO BECOME A PROFESSOR. I COULDN'T POSSIBLY CALL YOU CHAN.
KE,
YOU'RE STILL A BASTARD
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST FOR THAT?
AS IF.
GLINT

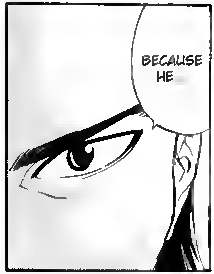
WE'VE BEEN SO LONELY... HE WENT ABROAD RIGHT AFTER THAT INCIDENT, BECAUSE OF HIS DAD'S WORK...
I HEARD
OH, THAT..
MIKOTO-CHAN'S FINALLY COMING BACK TO JAPAN!
DON'T BE SO EMBAR-RASSED.
WHA,
I WAS NOT!!
YOU SEEMED MORE DISAPPOINTED THAT HE WAS LEAVING THAN WHEN YOU HEARD YOU LOST THE PROFESSORSHIP.
YEAH.
YOU CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM, CAN YOU?


HE'S WORKING IN AMERICA, THE COUNTRY AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE!


YEAH, BUT ONLY FOR THAT.
YOU'RE THE FOREMOST AUTHORITY FOR PEDIATRIC HEART SURGERY IN THE WORLD!

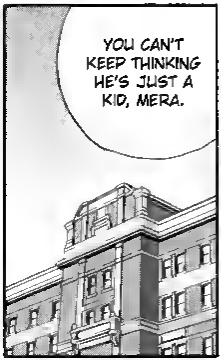

OH DON'T BE SO MODEST.
HE'S PROBABLY WAY BETTER THAN US ALREADY


YOU CAN DO A TGA IN 40 MINUTES NOW.


BECAUSE HE

FOR ANYTHING ELSE, HE REALLY MIGHT BE BETTER.

T/N: MSA IS SUCH A COMMON ACRONYM THAT I COULDN'T FIND WHAT IT ACTUALLY STANDS FOR.



SCANNED BY SNOOPY
TRANSLATED BY RY
PROOFREAD BY SHEARS
EDITED BY CAVE

NINJASNOOPYCOOL.COM

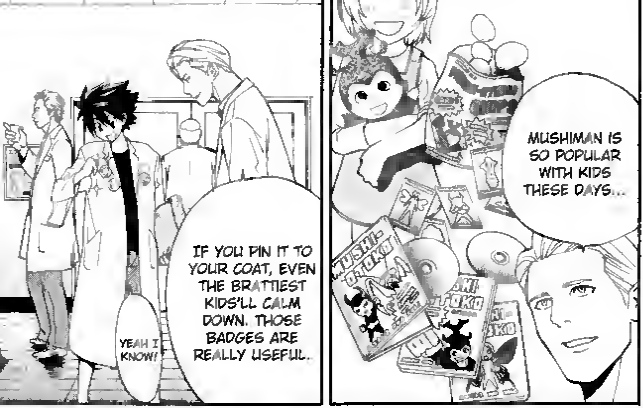
CHAPTER 2:
ON THE DOCTOR'S SIDE

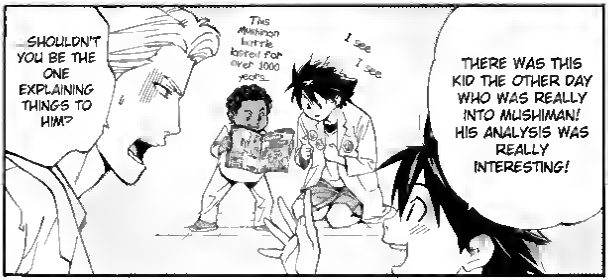
AMERICA
JOHN HOPKINS HOSPITAL
HEY, CHECK IT OUT ROCKMOND!

I GOT A FREE BUG PRINCE. MUSHIMAN BADGE WHEN I BOUGHT SOME SENBEI IN JAPAN TOWN!
TA-DAA

2

WOW, LUCKY YOU!
YOUNG JB HOSPITAL SURGEON ROCKMOND DUNBAR
YOUNG JB HOSPITAL SURGEON SAIJOU MIKOTO


YEAH I KNOW!
IF YOU PIN IT TO YOUR COAT, EVEN THE BRATTIEST KIDS'LL CALM DOWN. THOSE BADGES ARE REALLY USEFUL.
MUSHIMAN IS SO POPULAR WITH KIDS THESE DAYS...


SHOULDN'T YOU BE THE ONE EXPLAINING THINGS TO HIM?
This Mushiman battle lasted for over 1000 years...
I see. I see.
THERE WAS THIS KID THE OTHER DAY WHO WAS REALLY INTO MUSHIMAN! HIS ANALYSIS WAS REALLY INTERESTING!

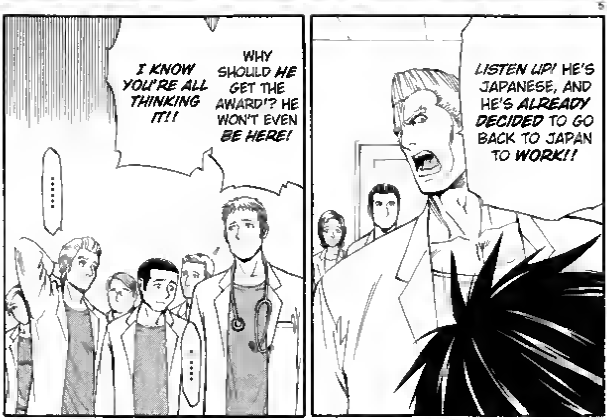
3

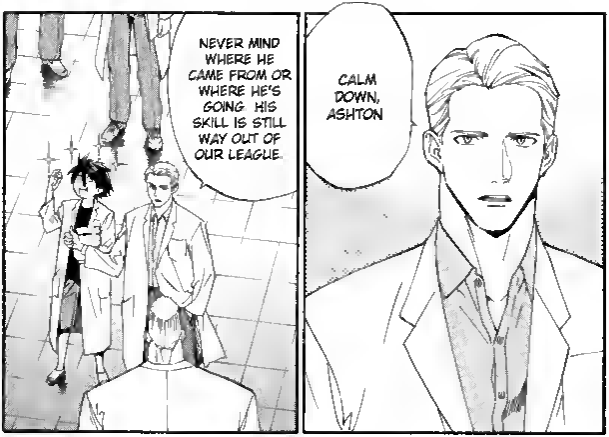
WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY
HIS BACK-GROUND IS SO INTEREST-ING~~~~
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
PERSONALLY, I REALLY LIKE SPIDERGUY! HE LOOKS JUST LIKE SPI○MAN, BUT...

T/N: FURTHER RESEARCH REVEALS THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE MICHAEL A. SHANOFF AWARD FROM JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. THANKS SNOOP!

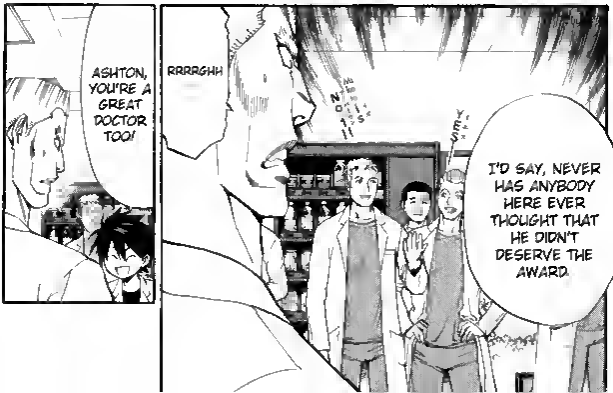
BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SO SUITED TO BEING A SURGEON FOR CHILDREN...
I ACTUALLY REALLY LIKE HERCULES BEETLE MAN TOO...
HE ACTS LIKE SUCH A KID, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S TALENTED ENOUGH THAT HE WAS SELECTED TO GET THE MSA AWARD...
NEVER!
IT'S ALSO WHY EVERYONE HERE LIKES HIM... WELL, 'CEPT FOR...
WHY DID THE MSA GO TO...
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT IT!!
YOUNG JB HOSPITAL
SURGEON
ASHTON KENNEBY

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU!!
YEAH, WHY!?
SFX: HUH
MIKOTO SAIJOU!!

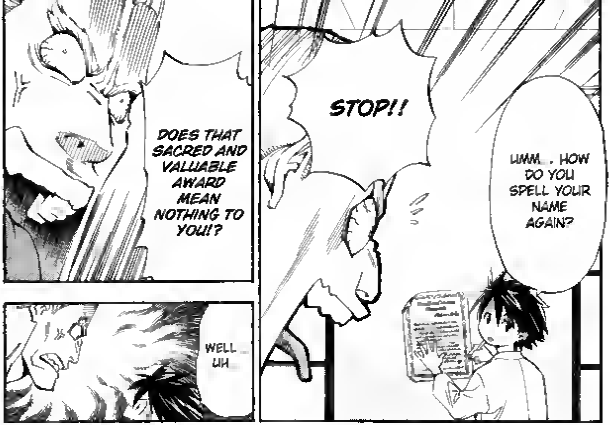

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL THINKING IT!!
WHY SHOULD HE GET THE AWARD!? HE WON'T EVEN BE HERE!
LISTEN UP! HE'S JAPANESE, AND HE'S ALREADY DECIDED TO GO BACK TO JAPAN TO WORK!!

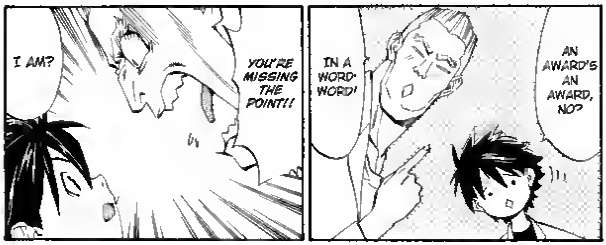

NEVER MIND WHERE HE CAME FROM OR WHERE HE'S GOING. HIS SKILL IS STILL WAY OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.
CALM DOWN, ASHTON

IF I WERE TO SAY "NEVER" LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO...


ASHTON, YOU'RE A GREAT DOCTOR TOO!
RRRRGHH
I'D SAY, NEVER HAS ANYBODY HERE EVER THOUGHT THAT HE DIDN'T DESERVE THE AWARD.

TH... THIS IS THE MSA PENDANT AND THE MEDICAL TEXT YOU GOT...
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY!!
SFX: THUD
?
HERE!
SFX: ??
I GUESS I HAVE TO REWRITE THE NAME ON THE CERTIFICATE
I THINK YOU'RE GREAT, SO I'M GIVING YOU AN MSA AWARD!
7


DOES THAT SACRED AND VALUABLE AWARD MEAN NOTHING TO YOU!?
STOP!!
UMM. . HOW DO YOU SPELL YOUR NAME AGAIN?
WELL UH


I AM?
YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT!!
IN A WORD· WORD!
AN AWARD'S AN AWARD, NO?

GOD...
I DON'T LIKE EITHER!!
DO YOU LIKE MUSHIMAN OR SENBE! BETTER?
HE THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH MOCKING ME!!
JUST CUZ HE'S A LITTLE TALENTED,

EVEN IF EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THIS HOSPITAL ACCEPTS YOU AND YOUR SKILL, I NEVER WILL!!
ASHTON
SIGH
YEAH,
WHY'S HE ALWAYS SO SELFISH AND SHORT-TEMPERED
9
HE'S JUST UPSET THAT HE DIDN'T GET THE AWARD
THAT'S NOT WHY
WHY'S HE GOTTA FLIP OUT LIKE THAT JUST CUZ I DUNNO HOW TO SPELL HIS NAME?

HIS FAMILY'S RELATED TO PRESIDENT KENNEBY,
SO HE CAN'T STAND NOT BEING THE BEST... HE PUTS A LOT OF EMPHASIS ON WINNING AND LOSING...

SO NOBODY LIKES HIM
...OH.

HE PRACTICES EVERY NIGHT...
ESPECIALLY AT ENDOSCOPY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING HE SAYS. JUST STAY CONFIDENT...
BUT I KNOW HE WORKS REALLY HARD.

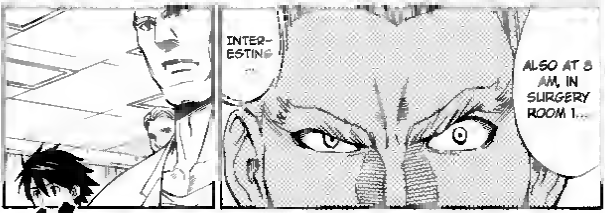
he he he
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON!?
THAT'S TRUE
HE'S PROBABLY BETTER THAN YOU!
11
I'm on the doctors' side!
?
I'M NOT ON ANYBODY'S SIDE, ROCKMOND.

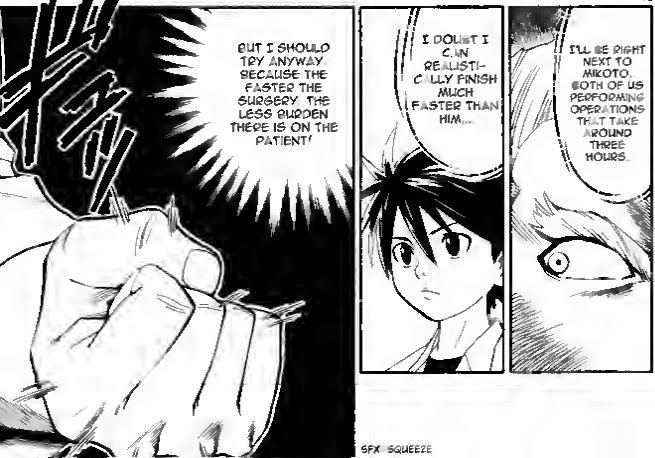
I'LL CONFIRM TODAY'S SCHEDULED SURGERIES
FROM 8 AM, THORACOSCOPIC EXTIRPATION OF A MEDIASTINAL TUMOR IN ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY ROOM 1 PATIENT IS A 10 YEAR OLD GIRL
JB HOSPITAL HEAD SURGEON MARK WAHLBERG
MIKOTO AS SURGEON, ROCKMOND AS ASSISTANT

*REMOVAL OF A TUMOR IN THE CHEST WITH A TYPE OF ENDOSCOPE

ASHTON AS SURGEON. JEFFREY AS ASSISTANT.
ALSO AT 8 AM, THORACOSCOPIC ABLATION OF LOWER LEFT LUNG LOBE IN ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY ROOM 2. PATIENT IS AN 11 YEAR OLD BOY...

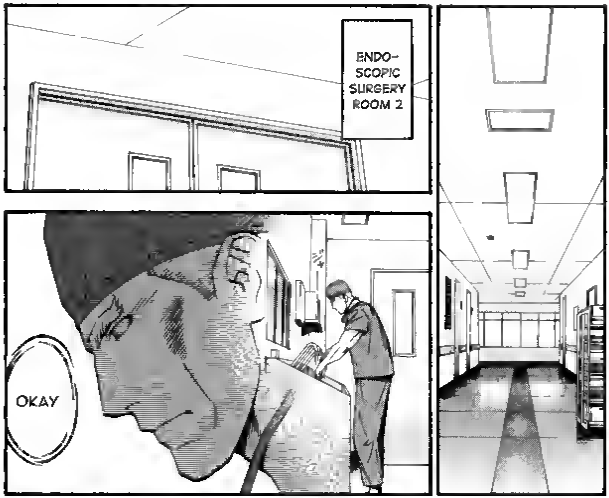
*REMOVAL OF LOWER PART OF THE LUNG. DONE WHEN A TUMOR IS FOUND



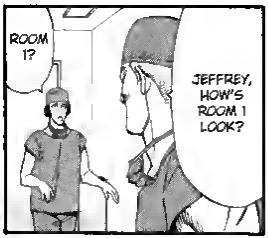

I DOUBT I CAN REALISTI-CALLY FINISH MUCH FASTER THAN HIM...
I'LL BE RIGHT NEXT TO MIKOTO. BOTH OF US PERFORMING OPERATIONS THAT TAKE AROUND THREE HOURS.
BUT I SHOULD TRY ANYWAY. BECAUSE THE FASTER THE SURGERY, THE LESS BURDEN THERE IS ON THE PATIENT!
SFX: SQUEEZE

SFX WHISPER

14

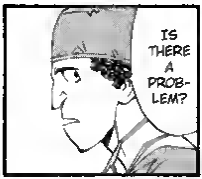

ENDO-SCOPIC SURGERY ROOM 2
OKAY

THEY STARTED A WHILE AGO.
!

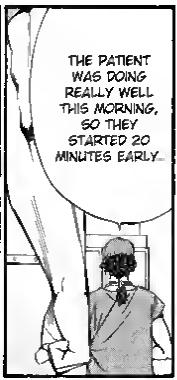

ROOM 1?
JEFFREY, HOW'S ROOM 1 LOOK?

OH, MIKOTO'S ROOM.

SON OF A BITCH!!


IS THERE A PROB-LEM?

NO


THE PATIENT WAS DOING REALLY WELL THIS MORNING, SO THEY STARTED 20 MINUTES EARLY...

stop
NO, WAIT, HE'S A DOCTOR... HE WOULDN'T DO THAT...

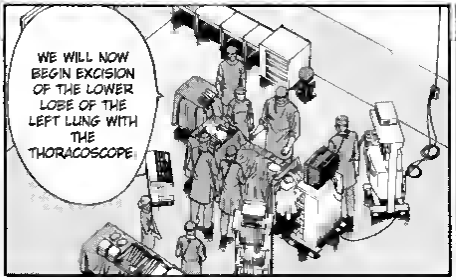
HE'S JUST DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR HIS PATIENT...

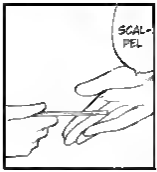
HOW DARE HE! RUNNING AWAY FROM MY CHALLENGE, IS HE!?

A-ANY WAY...
?

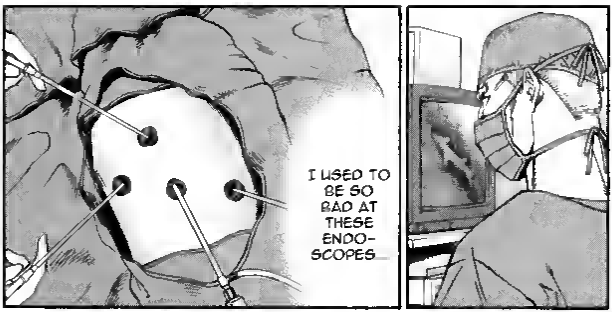
NOW WE FIGHT PURELY WITH TIME AND SKILL!!
LET'S HURRY, JEFFREY!!
R-RIGHT

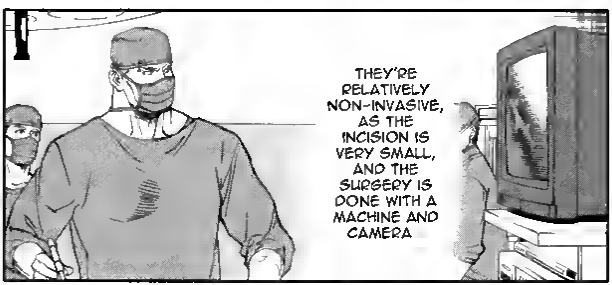
17


WE WILL NOW BEGIN EXCISION OF THE LOWER LOBE OF THE LEFT LUNG WITH THE THORACOSCOPE.

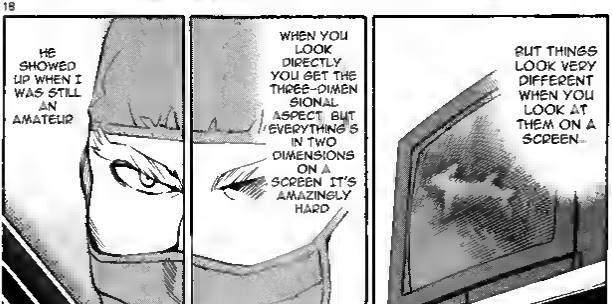

SCAL-PEL

PATIENT IS AN 11 YEAR OLD BOY. THE SURGERY IS BEING DONE BECAUSE A TUMOR HAS BEEN FOUND IN THAT AREA


I USED TO BE SO BAD AT THESE ENDO-SCOPES...


THEY'RE RELATIVELY NON-INVASIVE, AS THE INCISION IS VERY SMALL, AND THE SURGERY IS DONE WITH A MACHINE AND CAMERA...

18


HE SHOWED UP WHEN I WAS STILL AN AMATEUR
WHEN YOU LOOK DIRECTLY YOU GET THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL ASPECT BUT EVERYTHING'S IN TWO DIMENSIONS ON A SCREEN IT'S AMAZINGLY HARD
BUT THINGS LOOK VERY DIFFERENT WHEN YOU LOOK AT THEM ON A SCREEN...

PERFECT.
GALL BLADDER REMOVAL COMPLETE!
HE HE HE
HOW CAN YOU DO IT SO QUICKLY!?
IT'S A RELATIVELY SIMPLE OPERATION, BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN 30 MINUTES
WHEW
HE'S SO FAST...

SPATIAL AWARENESS
APPARENTLY, I HAVE REALLY GOOD SPATIAL AWARENESS!
YOU DON'T NEED TO! PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT AFTER ALL
I'M JEALOUS, I'VE GOT NOTHING LIKE THAT...
YOU MEAN LIKE YOU CAN VISUALIZE IN 3 DIMENSIONS FROM A 2D PICTURE OR FROM JUST HEARING THE WORD...
Y-YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY! YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU PUT ENOUGH EFFORT INTO IT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE ENDOSCOPE IN THIS HOSPITAL FOR PRACTICE BUT YOU SHOULD USE IT WHEN YOU HAVE TIME
YAY!

THE GAP KEPT WIDENING
WOW MIKOTO! YOU CAN REMOVE AN ADRENAL GLAND TUMOR IN 40 MINUTES!?
I PRACTICED LIKE MAD EVERY DAY, BECAUSE I BELIEVED WHAT HE SAID!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S GOT MORE TALENT. AS A KENNEDY, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO ANYONE!
BUT...
HE HE HE
SOME PEOPLE TAKE 2 HOURS FOR THAT OPERATION...

21

OKAY. NO PROBLEMS SO FAR.
I COULD NEVER BEAT HIM! I'VE BEEN SO FRUSTRAT-ED...!!

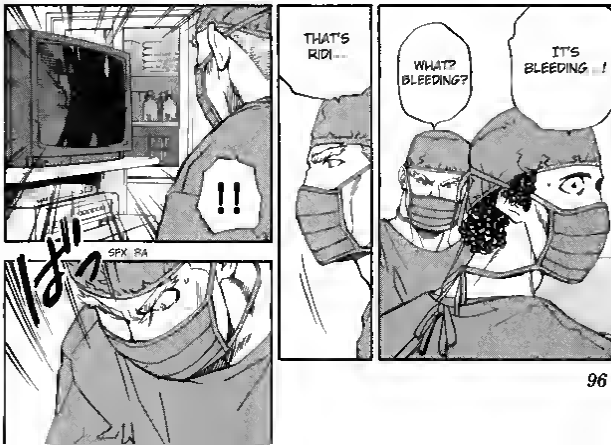
STAPLER.
HERE
Mesh!
STAPLER A TOOL USED FOR CUTTING BLOOD VESSELS IT RELEASES A PIN (LIKE A STAPLE) AT THE SAME TIME AS IT CUTS PREVENTING BLOOD LOSS FOR SANITARY REASONS THE TIP IS THROWN AWAY AFTER EACH USE
LET'S CUT THE PULMONARY ARTERY
HEH, THANKS
AND I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH PRECISION!
I'M IMPRESSED, DR. ASHTON! YOU'RE SO FAST!
22
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DONE NEXT DOOR
I heard the door open
!
CREAK
IT'S TAKEN ME MANY LONG YEARS TO GET THIS FAR

I KNEW IT...
HE DIDN'T EVEN TAKE AN HOUR!
WITH HIS SKILL, I BET HE DID IT PERFECTLY, TOO!
WHY IS HE ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF ME!!

DAMN!!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG!?
NO, NOTHING
FORGET HIM! I HAVE A JOB TO DO!!

PULMONARY ARTERY HAS BEEN SEVERED
PSH
HUH?
HAA
HEY ASHTON, THIS DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT...

24


!!
SFX: PA
THAT'S RIDI...
WHAT? BLEEDING?
IT'S BLEEDING...!

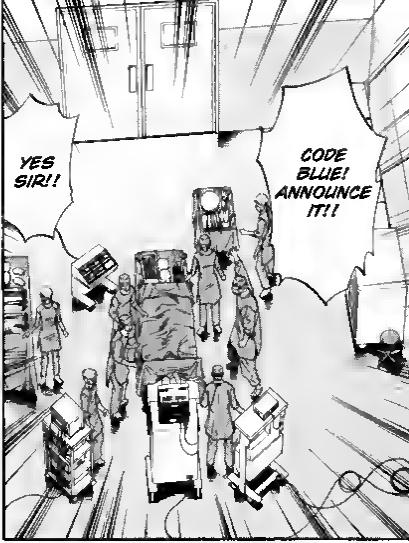
ドア！

SFX: SPURT

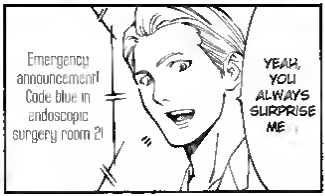
25

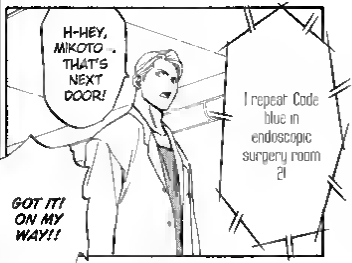
IT'S BLEEDING!!
BUT,
I THINK YOU DID TOO!
WHAT'S GOING ON!? I DID IT PERFECTLY !!
……WH

CODE BLUE: AN EMERGENCY CALL FOR OTHER DOCTORS TO COME ASSIST WITH A PATIENT WHOSE CONDITION HAS SUDDENLY WORSENED FOR SOME REASON.



26





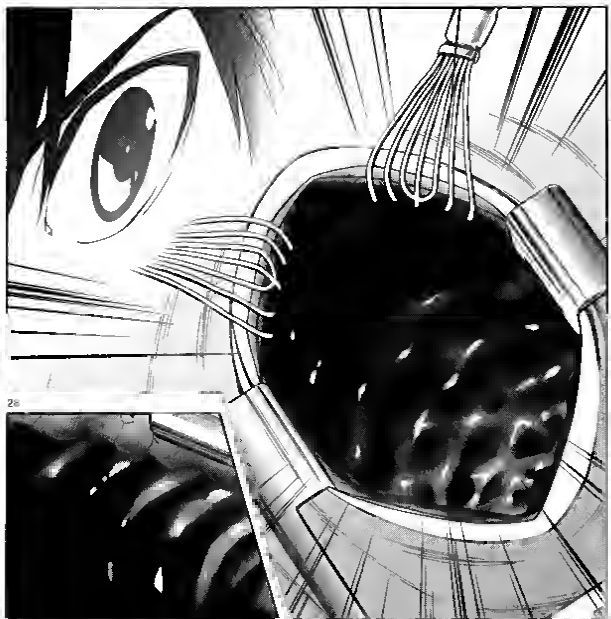
SFX: RUN

GLOVES !!
SFX BA
SFX BANG
HURRY !!
Y-YES SIR!!

I DON'T KNOW, HE SUDDENLY STARTED BLEEDING!
WHAT HAPPENED !?
HAVE YOU DONE AN EMERGENCY THORACOTOMY?
I'M DOING IT NOW...

...TH,
THANKS
...

LET ME LOOK, I'LL FIND THE SOURCE!

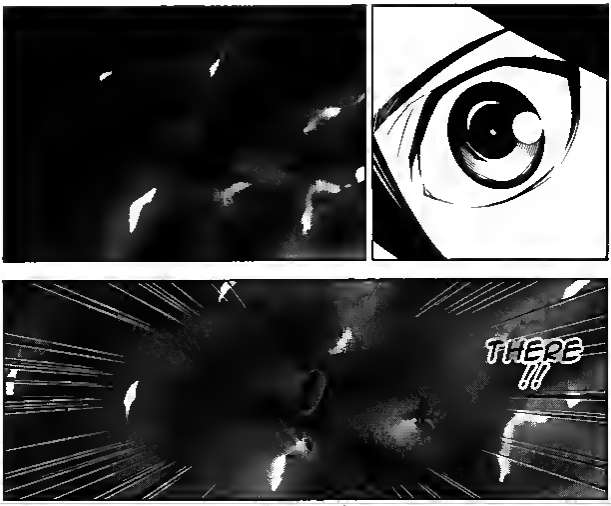


I WON-DER WHY

I FEEL LIKE HE'LL BE ABLE TO FIX THIS!!

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT'S BLEEDING FROM YET, SO WHY DO I FEEL SO RELIEVED.....

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT



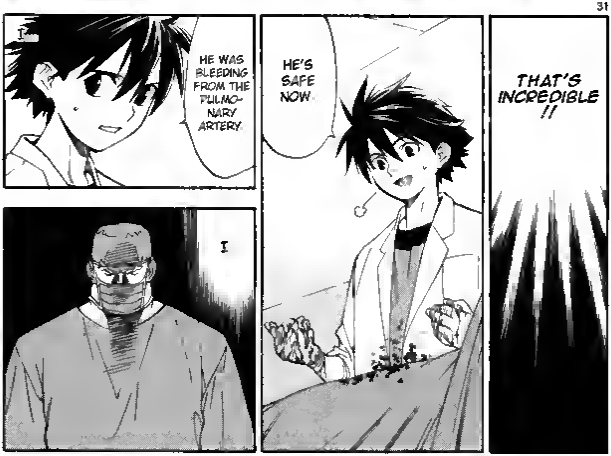
SFX: GRIP

SFX: ZUBO

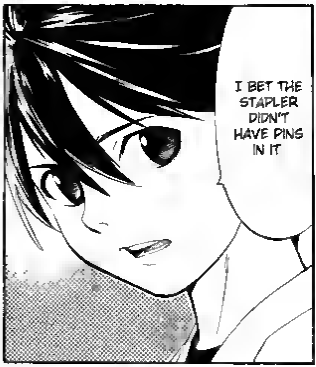
30

COAGU-
LATING
FORCEPS
!!
HE VISUALIZED
WHERE IT WAS
BLEEDING FROM
BY LOOKING AT
THE RIPPLES ON
THE SURFACE
OF THE
BLOOD!?
HE GOT
IT FIRST
TRY!?

31


HE WAS
BLEEDING
FROM THE
PULMO-
NARY
ARTERY
I
HE'S
SAFE
NOW
THAT'S
INCREDIBLE
!!

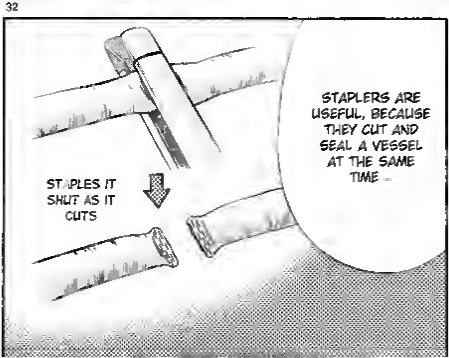
I HATE HIM, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!


I BET THE STAPLER DIDN'T HAVE PINS IN IT

BUT WHY?

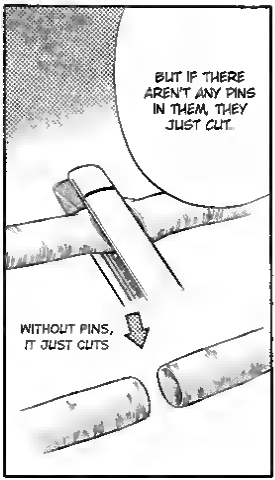
I DIDN'T SEE HIM MAKE ANY MISTAKES ...
IT WASN'T A MISTAKE

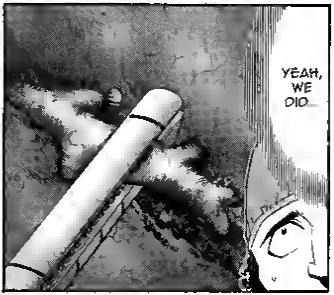
32

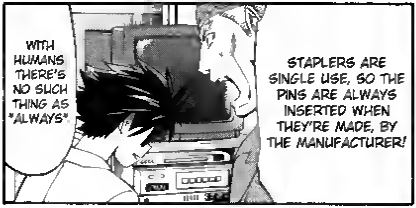

STAPLERS ARE USEFUL, BECAUSE THEY CUT AND SEAL A VESSEL AT THE SAME TIME ...
STAPLES IT SHUT AS IT CUTS

?

THIS WAS AN OPERATION TO CUT OFF THE LOWER LEFT LUNG LOBE, RIGHT?
SO YOU MUST HAVE CUT THE ARTERY WITH THE STAPLER.


BUT IF THERE AREN'T ANY PINS IN THEM, THEY JUST CUT.
WITHOUT PINS, IT JUST CUTS


YEAH, WE DID.


STAPLERS ARE SINGLE USE, SO THE PINS ARE ALWAYS INSERTED WHEN THEY'RE MADE, BY THE MANUFACTURER!
WITH HUMANS THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS "ALWAYS"

HEY, WAIT A SECOND

IT MIGHT ONLY BE ONCE IN 100 THOUSAND OR ONCE IN A MILLION, BUT ACCIDENTS LIKE THIS HAPPEN!

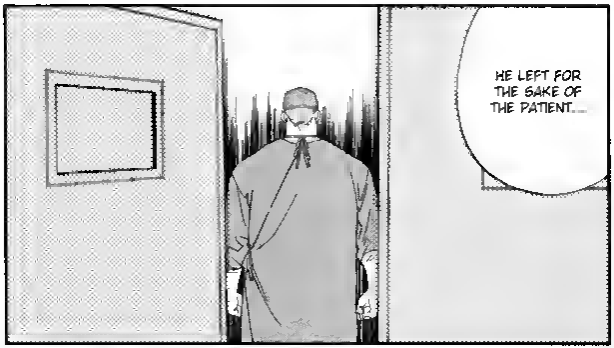
BUT EVEN AS HUMANS CAN NEVER BE PERFECT...
I KNOW, MOST DOCTORS DON'T CHECK EVERY TIME.
B-BUT DOCTORS ARE HUMAN, TOO! WITH SUCH LOW ODDS.....
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE SURE THERE'S A PIN IN THE STAPLER.
URG
HE'S RIGHT...
!
DOCTORS CAN NEVER NOT BE!
SFX THUNK
I ALWAYS SAID "NEVER" ALL THE TIME, BUT... IN TERMS OF TALENT... AND READINESS AS A DOCTOR... HE ALWAYS BEAT ME.....

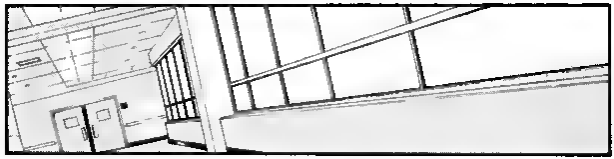
!!
CAN YOU FINISH THIS OPERATION?
...MIKOTO, PLEASE .....

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!! YOU CAN'T ABANDON YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!
WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO FINISH THIS RIGHT NOW...

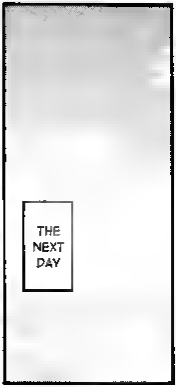
BUT... FOR HIS SAKE—
THAT'S FINE...
THEY'LL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE!!
YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE PATIENT'S FAMILY WHAT HAPPENED, TOO!!
SFX: STAND UP

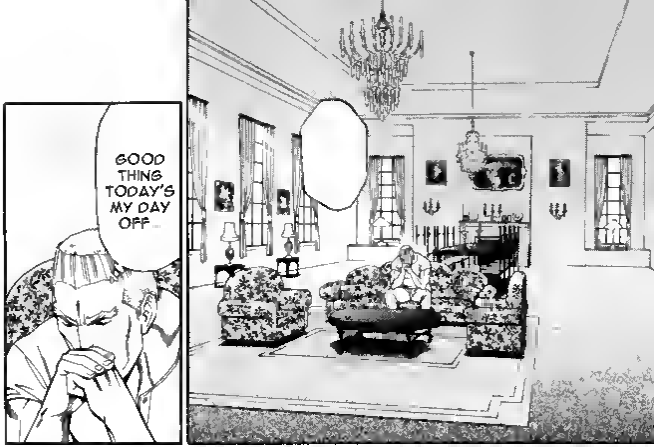
I'LL FINISH THE SURGERY, AND I'LL EXPLAIN TO THE FAMILY
OKAY ASHTON
EVEN IF THERE'S ONLY A ONE IN 10,000 CHANCE I'LL SCREW UP, I DON'T THINK IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO CONTINUE TODAY.....
BUT...
36
ASHTON ISN'T DOING THIS SELFISHLY.
H-HEY!!
THANKS.
YOU SHOULD GO REST.
SFX CREAK
YEAH
SERIOUSLY MIKOTO?

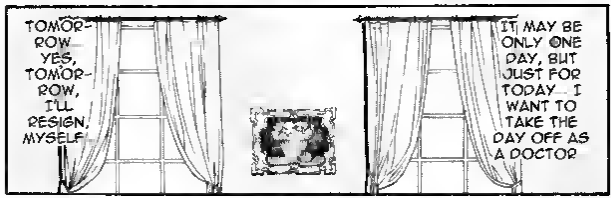

HE LEFT FOR THE SAKE OF THE PATIENT...

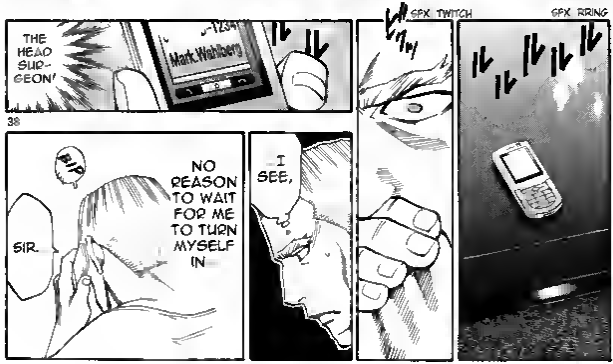


KENNEDY MANSION


THE NEXT DAY


GOOD THING TODAY'S MY DAY OFF...


TOMOR-ROW... YES, TOMOR-ROW, I'LL RESIGN, MYSELF.
IT MAY BE ONLY ONE DAY, BUT JUST FOR TODAY... I WANT TO TAKE THE DAY OFF AS A DOCTOR


THE HEAD SUR-GEON!
YES?
Mark Wahlberg
38
SFX: TWITCH
SFX: RRING
BIP
SIR.
NO REASON TO WAIT FOR ME TO TURN MYSELF IN...
...I SEE.

HUH?
Good work today, Ashton
I KNOW WHY YOU'RE CALLING I WILL
MIKOTO TOLD ME
N-no
!?
I heard you finished the operation despite the stapler problem

MIKOTO !!
No wonder the parents went home without any complaints
HE SAID YOU SUTURED IT SO WELL, THE SCAR WILL BE VERY LIGHT.
WHAT'S GOING ON!

DON'T FUCK WITH ME...!!!

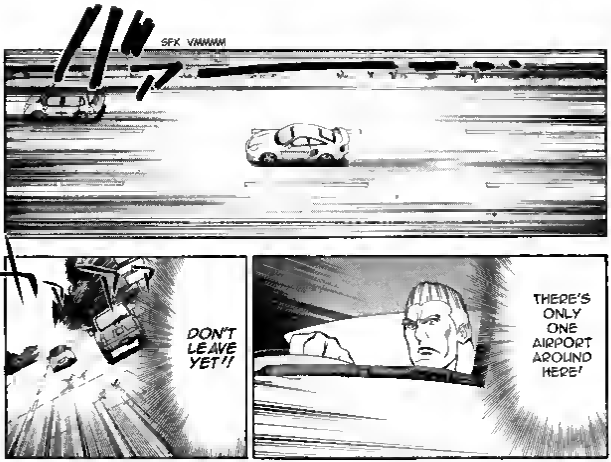
40

Mikoto's leaving America this afternoon.
Ashton you there?
SFX: GRIND...
DO YOU PITY ME!?
HMP AT THE AIRPORT, I SUPPOSE
Um Sir where is Mikoto now ?
Are you all right?
Y-YES?
? Oh, you didn't know?
AIR-PORT?

SFX DULL TONE
HUH?
ASHTON ..?
ツーツー…
IT'S A BLOW TO THE HOSPITAL TO LOSE HIM, BUT WITH TALENTED DOCTORS LIKE YOU STILL AROUND

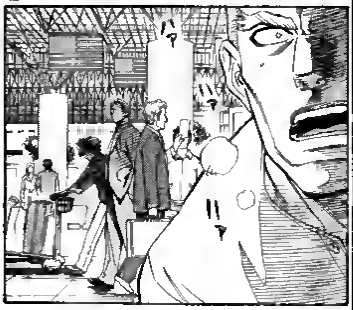
SFX RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
FUCK!!

SFX VOOOM
OPEN THE FUCK UP, YOU FUCKING SHUTTER!!
41
SFX SCREE

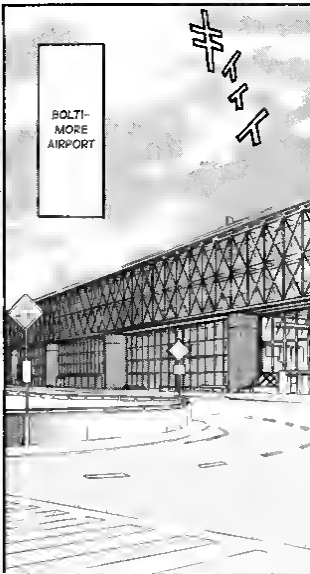


SFX: EEEE (AIRPLANE NOISES)

42



SFX: FANT

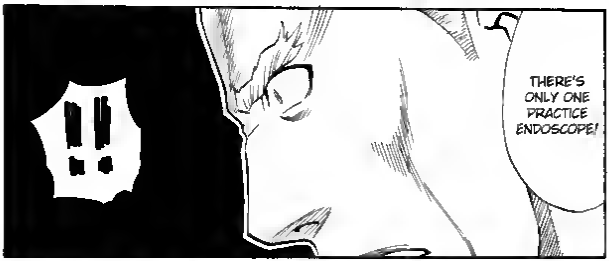


ROCKMOND!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ASHTON!
SFX: GRAB
YOU JUST MISSED HIM. HIS PLANE JUST LEFT.
WHERE'S MIKOTO!?
43
AGAIN WITH THE WINNING AND LOSING...
.....
DAMN,
HOW DARE HE JUST LEAVE WHEN HE'S WINNING...
OH NO

I KNOW!
I KNOW HIS TALENT IS LIGHT YEARS AHEAD OF MINE!
YOU'RE SO MUCH SMALLER THAN HIM, IT'S SAD
HMPH!
SAY WHAT YOU WILL!
OH,
HE DOESN'T WORK HARD AT ALL, BUT STILL
BUT I CAN'T STAND HOW HE JUST COASTS ON HIS INBORN TALENT AND LOOKS DOWN ON OTHERS FROM ABOVE!!
44
BUT HE KNEW THAT YOU WORK HARD
WORK HARD, HUH
まっ、とにかく お前は あんなヤツの 負うコトは 重しせず 堂々としていれば
でも アイツって 本当に 努力家だよね。

GET A CLUE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! QUIZ I PRACTICE EVERY NIGHT, OBVIOUSLY!

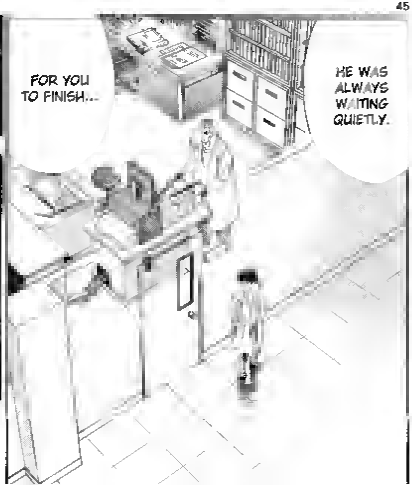
WHA?
DO YOU KNOW WHY?

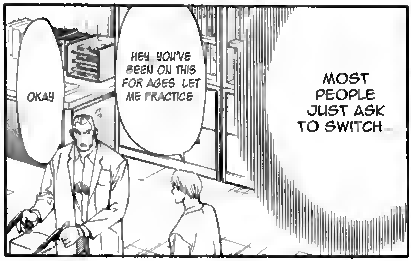

!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE PRACTICE ENDOSCOPE!

45

.....

THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY HE IS.


FOR YOU TO FINISH...
HE WAS ALWAYS WAITING QUIETLY.


I HAD NO IDEA...
MOST PEOPLE JUST ASK TO SWITCH...
HEH. YOU'VE BEEN ON THIS FOR AGES. LET ME PRACTICE
OKAY

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE

46

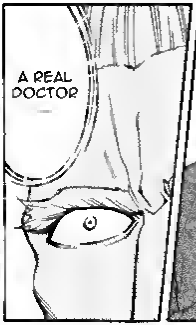
BECAUSE
WHEN ALL I EVER DO IS ATTACK HIM...
BUT WHY IS HE SO CONSIDERATE OF ME!
THIS TIME, TOO!

医者の味方さ。
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANT AT FIRST EITHER, BUT

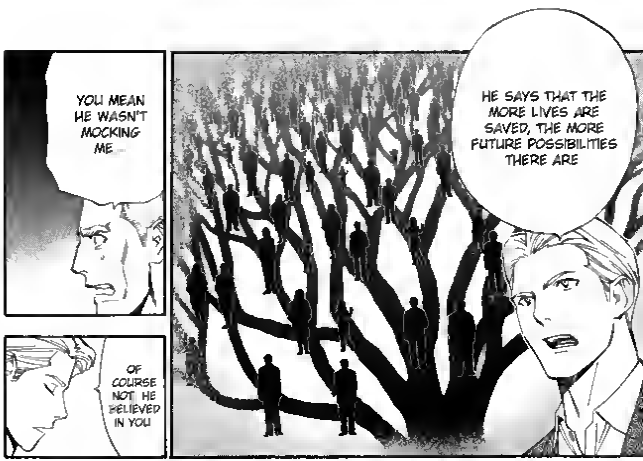
He's on the doctors' side.
?

REGARDLESS OF YOUR PERSONALITY, MIKOTO FELT THAT YOU HAD THAT QUALITY OF BEING A REAL DOCTOR

THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO WORK HARD FOR THEIR PATIENTS, SOMETIMES AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE THOSE ARE THE BEST DOCTORS


A REAL DOCTOR

MIKOTO BELIEVES THAT IF HE HELPS A DOCTOR, THEN THAT DOCTOR WILL BE ABLE TO HELP MANY MORE PATIENTS LATER ON.

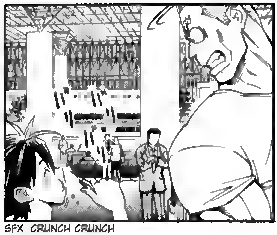

YOU MEAN HE WASN'T MOCKING ME...
HE SAYS THAT THE MORE LIVES ARE SAVED, THE MORE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES THERE ARE
OF COURSE NOT. HE BELIEVED IN YOU

More than anyone.

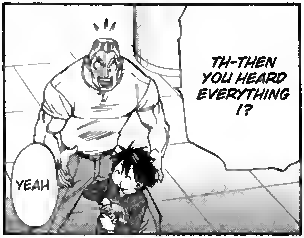
I...
THAT'S WHY HE COVERED FOR YOU THIS TIME, TOO
?
HERE!
I THINK YOU'RE GREAT SO I'M GIVING YOU AN MSA AWARD!
THAT'S WHY HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH GIVING YOU THE MSA AWARD...

I'LL FINISH THE SURGERY AND I'LL EXPLAIN TO THE FAMILY.
HE'S BELIEVED IN ME, PROTECTED ME, SAVED ME...
BUT I COULDN'T SEE THROUGH MY STUPID PRIDE, AND TREATED HIM LIKE AN ENEMY...
WHAT HAVE I...!!

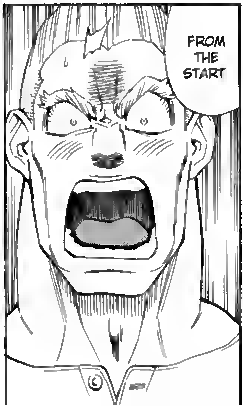
ROCKMOND, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'M SURE HE WON'T FORGIVE ME NOW, EVEN IF I APOLOGIZE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I DO!!
EVEN IF HE WON'T FORGIVE ME, I WANT TO MAKE IT UP TO HIM...
50
ASAKUSA! I ALWAYS WANTED TO...
We can get Souka Senbei
THEN WANNA GO TO ASAKUSA TOGETHER?
I KNOW, I'LL GO TO JAPAN AND...
OF COURSE HE IS! HE MUST BE MAD!!
NOT MAD OR ANYTHING



SFX CRUNCH CRUNCH



51



GRO OOAR!!
SFX NUUURGH
OKAY?
ROARR
YOU ASSHOLE! HOW DARE YOU!!
WHAA
!?
I WILL NEVER, EVER FORGIVE YOU!!!
BUTTTT ROCKMOND TOLD ME TO HIDE!!
I DON'T CARE!! HURRY AND GET YOUR ASS BACK TO JAPAN!!!

Scanner: Snoopy

Translator: rp

Proofreader: Shejes

Editor: Cave

www.snoopycool.com

DISCLAIMER!!

FROM OUR TRANSLATOR, RP

ALTHOUGH RP TRIES HER DAMNDEST TO MAKE SURE MEDICAL TERMS ARE ACCURATE, SHE IS NOT A DOCTOR AND THEREFORE IS LIABLE TO MAKE MISTAKES. SHE WOULD LOVE TO BE CORRECTED ON ANY MISUSE OR MISTAKES. PLEASE POST ANY CONCERNS IN THE SC FORUMS. THANK YOU, ENJOY!

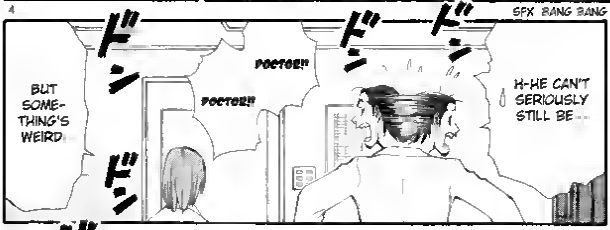
CHAPTER 3:
A GREATER GOAL

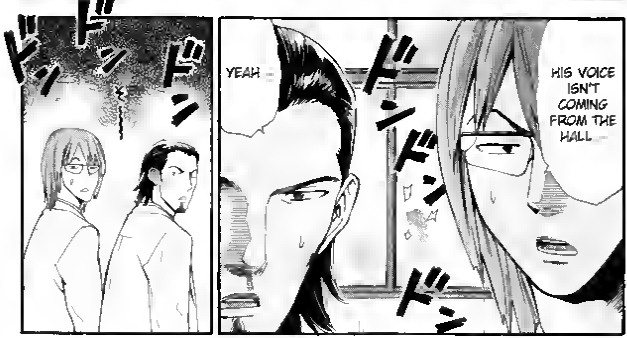
SAIHAMA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
YEAH.
SO MIKOTO'S FINALLY COMING BACK TODAY...
IS JAPAN REALLY THE PLACE FOR HIM, THOUGH?

BUT PEDIATRIC SURGEONS ARE SEEN SO DIFFERENTLY IN AMERICA AND JAPAN. THEY'RE SEEN AS SO SKILLED OVER THERE, BUT HERE, THE LACK OF SURGEONS IS GETTING REALLY SERIOUS
I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER DOCTORS WHO HAVE AMERICAN LICENSES WHO WORK IN JAPAN
.....
BUT HE'S AN ADULT NOW. HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT
WELL SURE
I MEAN, HE EVEN GOT THE MSA AWARD, SO WHY BOTHER COMING BACK
3
HAHA HAHA,
YEAH RIGHT!
*DOCTOR! *DOCTOR! *DOCTOR! *DOCTOR!
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW. HE MIGHT JUST COME BARGING IN HERE YELLING "DOCTOR! DOCTOR!" LIKE HE USED TO
he he
THAT'S TRUE
BUT ANYWAY, RIGHT NOW I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT HE'S LIKE, ALL GROWN UP

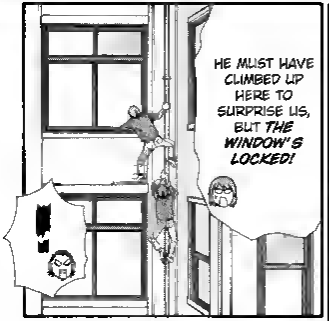
AS IF THE MSA AWARDEE WOULD ACT SO CHILDISH...
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
SLIDE

4


SFX BANG BANG
BUT SOMETHING'S WEIRD...
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
H-HE CAN'T SERIOUSLY STILL BE...


YEAH...
HIS VOICE ISN'T COMING FROM THE HALL...

DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR!!
SFX: BANG BANG S


HE MUST HAVE CLIMBED UP HERE TO SURPRISE US, BUT THE WINDOW'S LOCKED!

I'M GONNA FALL!
WHAT ON EARTH ...!?
THAT MUST BE MIKOTO-CHAN!

pant
pant

Y-YEAH !!
WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!!

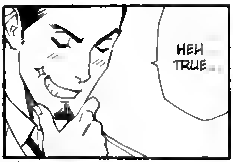
SO NOW IT'S OUR FAULT!?
JEEZ, WHY'D YOU GUYS TAKE SO LONG TO NOTICE!?
HMPH

THAT TOOK A FEW YEARS OFF...
WHEEE EEW...

6

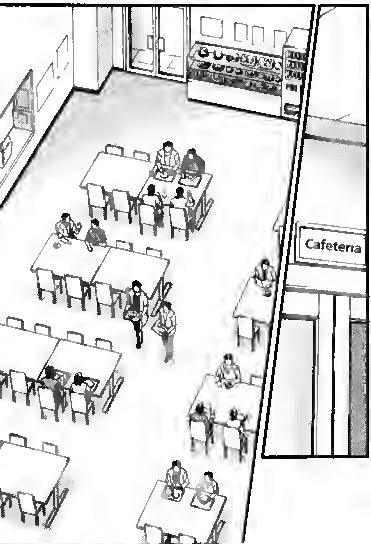
WELL, OBVIOUSLY.
BUT YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER!

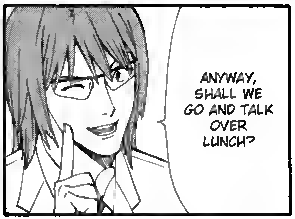
AND HERE WE WERE, WONDERING HOW MUCH YOU'D GROWN UP.
SIGHH
SIGHH

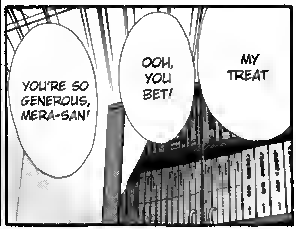

HEH
TRUE...

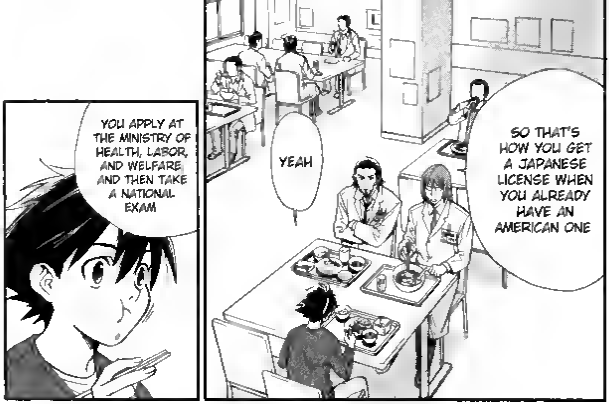
WE WORK WITH KIDS, SO OUR HEARTS NEED TO STAY THE SAME AS WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

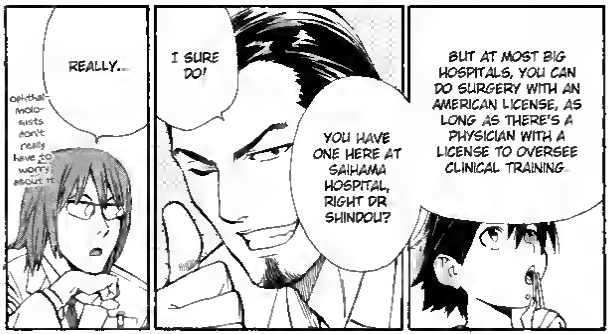
CALM DOWN
ガーン
But you've gotten WORSE!!

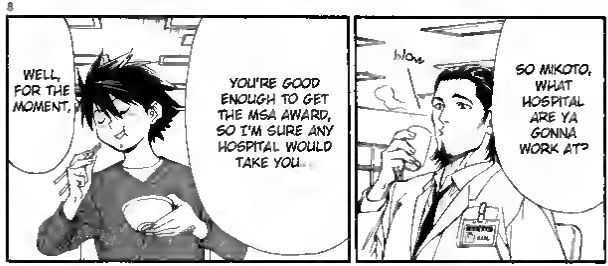

Cafeteria


ANYWAY, SHALL WE GO AND TALK OVER LUNCH?


YOU'RE SO GENEROUS, MERA-SAN!
OOH, YOU BET!
MY TREAT

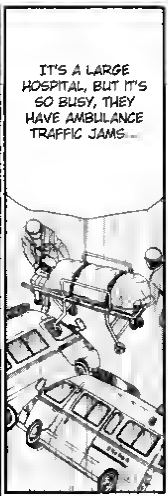

SO THAT'S HOW YOU GET A JAPANESE LICENSE WHEN YOU ALREADY HAVE AN AMERICAN ONE
YEAH
YOU APPLY AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LABOR, AND WELFARE AND THEN TAKE A NATIONAL EXAM


BUT AT MOST BIG HOSPITALS, YOU CAN DO SURGERY WITH AN AMERICAN LICENSE, AS LONG AS THERE'S A PHYSICIAN WITH A LICENSE TO OVERSEE CLINICAL TRAINING
YOU HAVE ONE HERE AT SAIHAMA HOSPITAL, RIGHT DR SHINDOU?
I SURE DO!
REALLY...
oh that malo-sists don't really have to worry about it


SO MIKOTO, WHAT HOSPITAL ARE YA GONNA WORK AT?
whew
YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET THE MSA AWARD, SO I'M SURE ANY HOSPITAL WOULD TAKE YOU...
WELL, FOR THE MOMENT,

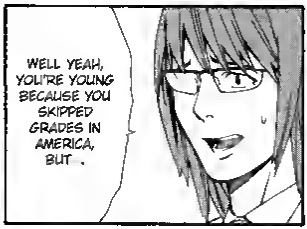
I'm thinking I'll go to Heisei Central Hospital.

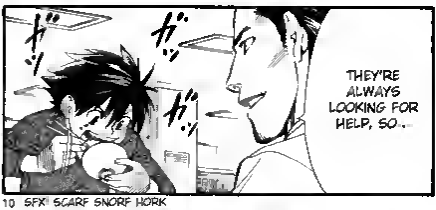
IT'S A HOSPITAL WHERE TRAINEES AND YOUNG DOCTORS ARE SENT TO TRAIN
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M GOING


IT'S A LARGE HOSPITAL, BUT IT'S SO BUSY, THEY HAVE AMBULANCE TRAFFIC JAMS...

!

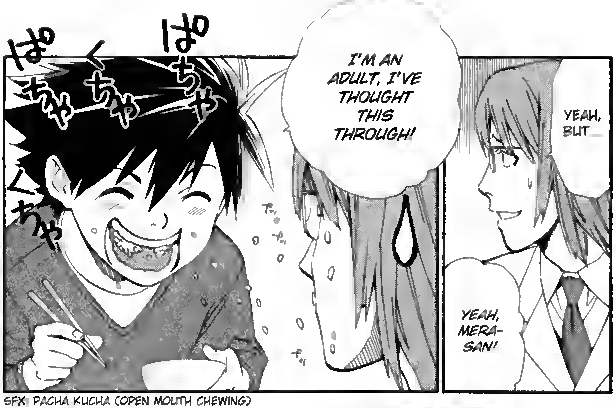
BUT MIKOTO-CHAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HEISEI'S LIKE!?





10 SFX: SCARF SNORF HORK

I'M ACTUALLY OLD FRIENDS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THAT HOSPITAL, SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO START RIGHT AWAY IF I RECOMMEND YOU
SH-SHINDOU-CHAN?



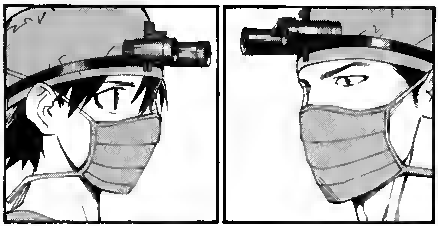
SFX: PACHA KUCHA (OPEN MOUTH CHEWING)

11

THAT MIGHT BE KIND OF A LOW POSITION FOR YOU, BUT I WANT TO SEE HOW GOOD MR MSA REALLY IS.
I'LL BE DOING AN OPERATION TO FIX A TOTAL ANOMALOUS PULMONARY VENOUS CONNECTION. WILL YOU BE MY ASSISTANT?
WELL, MIKOTO?
OF COURSE I'LL HELP!

LISTEN TO THIS GUY...
I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLACKING OFF, TOO.
OKAY!
DON'T BE LATE!
IN THAT CASE, SEE YOU AT 7 AM TOMORROW MORNING!
YEAH
WHY JAPAN??? WHY HEISEI HOSPITAL??? IS ALL AN ORDINARY HUMAN LIKE MYSELF CAN THINK OF...
12
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND MIKOTO-CHAN...
BUT SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND FROM WORDS, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ON THE OPERATING TABLE

SIGN IN USE



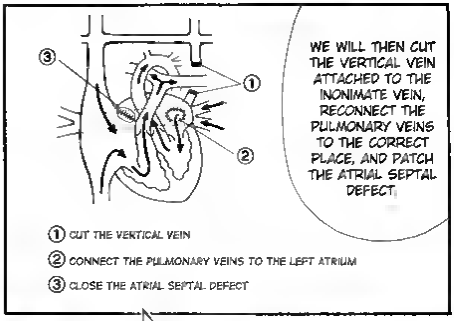
WHAT HE PLANS TO DO HERE... I'LL FIND THAT OUT TOMORROW

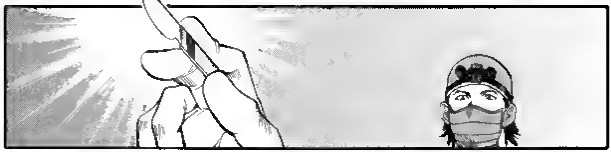
OH, HE'S A RESIDENT ON SUPER-ROTATION HE'LL JUST BE WATCHING *
WHO'S THAT?
* SUPER-ROTATION: WHEN RESIDENTS ARE SENT TO WATCH PROCEDURES FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS, SOMETIMES ONES THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN
BY THE WAY...
YAWN
OH...
SEEMS HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN SURGERY OR CHILDREN, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE'S INTO ADULT INTERNAL MEDICINE, BUT HE HAD TO COME FOR HIS ROTATION.
14
BUT THAT'S OKAY.
WHAT, MR MSA CAN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE?
BUT STILL...
YEAH.
THERE'LL BE A LOT MORE PEOPLE WATCHING YOU AT HEISEI HOSPITAL.

?
I'M NOT -WORRIED- ABOUT IT.
HEY YOU,
Y-YES?
YOU MIGHT NOT BE INTERESTED, BUT WATCH CAREFULLY.
I'M SURE YOU'LL LEARN SOMETHING USEFUL.
RIGHT ...
NOW THEN, WE WILL BEGIN SURGERY TO CORRECT A TOTAL ANOMALOUS PULMONARY VENOUS CONNECTION.

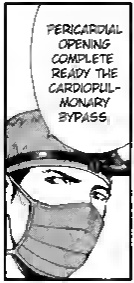
WE WILL FIRST PUT HIM ON CARDIOPULMONARY BYPASS AND STABILIZE THE HEART.

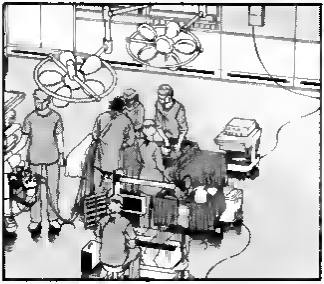
PATIENT IS A 7 DAY OLD MALE.


③
①
②
WE WILL THEN CUT THE VERTICAL VEIN ATTACHED TO THE INONIMATE VEIN, RECONNECT THE PULMONARY VEINS TO THE CORRECT PLACE, AND PATCH THE ATRIAL SEPTAL DEFECT.
① CUT THE VERTICAL VEIN
② CONNECT THE PULMONARY VEINS TO THE LEFT ATRIUM
③ CLOSE THE ATRIAL SEPTAL DEFECT



16


PERICARDIAL OPENING COMPLETE READY THE CARDIOPULMONARY BYPASS.



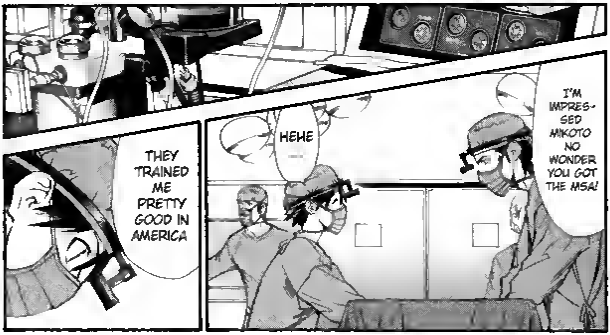
SFX SLIDE

ASCENDING AORTA DETACHED.
DETACH THE PULMONARY ARTERY AND ASCENDING AORTA.
ARTERIAL CANNULA LIGATURE FIXED
FIX ARTERIAL CA.
VENOUS CANNULA LIGATURE FIXED
FIX VENOUS CA.
AIR REMOVED
REMOVE A.

BYPASS MACHINE IS READY!
MAIN PULMONARY ARTERY VENTED
MAIN

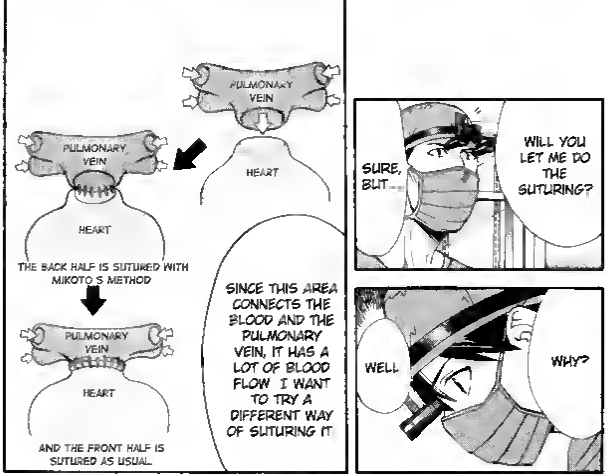
THE ASSISTANT'S JOB IS TO DO THE ROUTINE TASKS IN SURGERY, BUT...
SO FAST! AND SO PPECISE!
OKAY BEGIN EXTRACORPOREAL CIRCULATION!
SUCTION...
THE FASTER AND MORE PPECISE THEY DO IT, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THE SURGEON IN CHARGE!!
SFX: SHUUUK
DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO BE TOLD
18
THIS ISN'T TALENT
LEFT ATRIUM OPENED

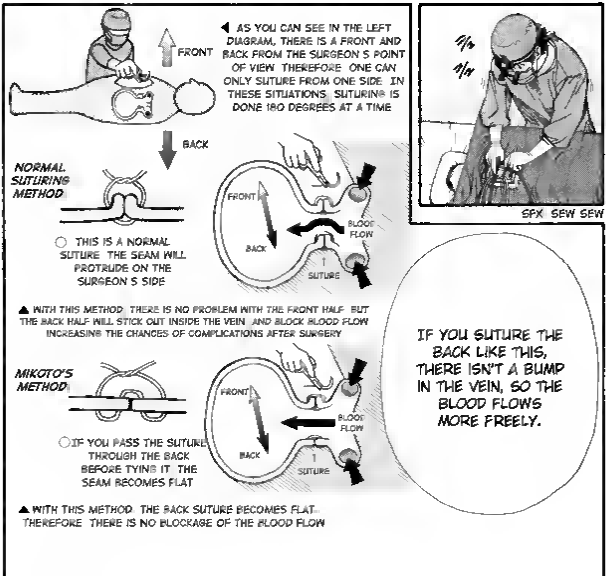
HE'S WORKED HARDER THAN I EVER IMAGINED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR!!
IF HE STUDIED THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE WELL OF COURSE HE KNOWS WHAT COMES NEXT


I'M IMPRESSED MIKOTO NO WONDER YOU GOT THE MSA!
HEHE
THEY TRAINED ME PRETTY GOOD IN AMERICA

19

OH, WAIT A SEC
NEXT WE'LL SUTURE THE PULMONARY VEIN AND THE LEFT ATRIUM.
HEH, GOOD TO HEAR
THIS IS NOTHING


PULMONARY VEIN
HEART
PULMONARY VEIN
HEART
THE BACK HALF IS SUTURED WITH MIKOTO'S METHOD
PULMONARY VEIN
HEART
AND THE FRONT HALF IS SUTURED AS USUAL.
SINCE THIS AREA CONNECTS THE BLOOD AND THE PULMONARY VEIN, IT HAS A LOT OF BLOOD FLOW. I WANT TO TRY A DIFFERENT WAY OF SUTURING IT.
SURE, BUT...
WILL YOU LET ME DO THE SUTURING?
WELL...
WHY?

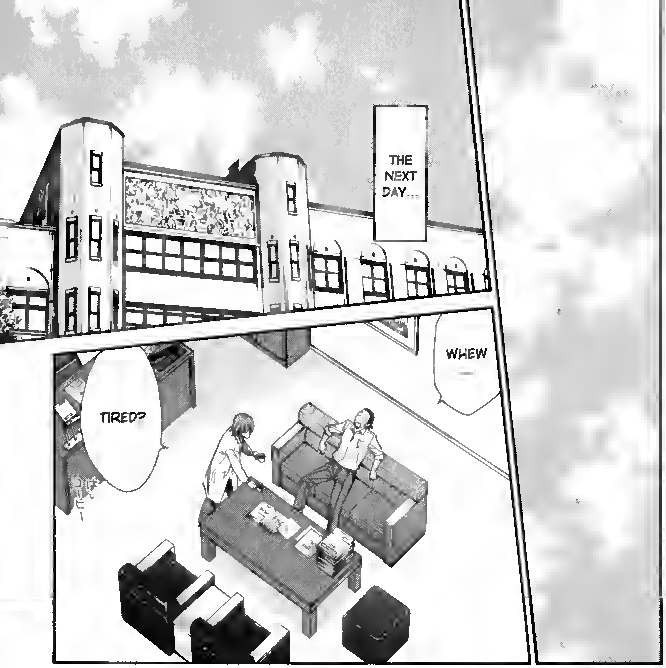

FRONT
BACK
AS YOU CAN SEE IN THE LEFT DIAGRAM, THERE IS A FRONT AND BACK FROM THE SURGEON'S POINT OF VIEW. THEREFORE, ONE CAN ONLY SUTURE FROM ONE SIDE. IN THESE SITUATIONS, SUTURING IS DONE 180 DEGREES AT A TIME.
NORMAL SUTURING METHOD
○ THIS IS A NORMAL SUTURE. THE SEAM WILL PROTRUDE ON THE SURGEON'S SIDE
FRONT
BACK
BLOOD FLOW
SUTURE
▲ WITH THIS METHOD, THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH THE FRONT HALF. BUT THE BACK HALF WILL STICK OUT INSIDE THE VEIN, AND BLOCK BLOOD FLOW. INCREASING THE CHANCES OF COMPLICATIONS AFTER SURGERY.
MIKOTO'S METHOD
○ IF YOU PASS THE SUTURE THROUGH THE BACK BEFORE TYING IT, THE SEAM BECOMES FLAT.
FRONT
BACK
BLOOD FLOW
SUTURE
▲ WITH THIS METHOD, THE BACK SUTURE BECOMES FLAT. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO BLOCKAGE OF THE BLOOD FLOW.
SFX: SEW SEW
IF YOU SUTURE THE BACK LIKE THIS, THERE ISN'T A BUMP IN THE VEIN, SO THE BLOOD FLOWS MORE FREELY.

WELL, IT HASN'T GOTTEN AROUND YET.
THAT'S AMAZING! I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS METHOD IN ANY ARTICLE.
I... I SEE...
SEE? GOOD, RIGHT?
!
I JUST ANNOUNCED IT LAST WEEK, SO

ALL RIGHT, LET'S FINISH THIS!
JUST HOW GOOD HAVE YOU BECOME!?
OH MAN, YOU

THIS IS GREAT, DR SHINDOU! THE SPEED OF THIS'LL PROBABLY BE A NEW WORLD RECORD!
HEH, OF COURSE

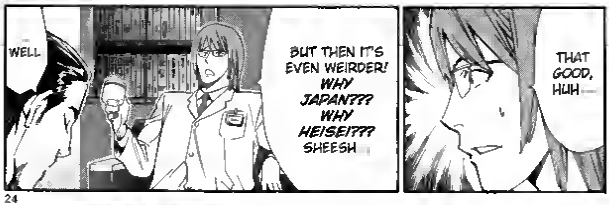
WORLD RECORDS ARE NOTHING
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM!
WITH SUCH A GREAT ASSISTANT !!


THE NEXT DAY...
WHEW
TIRED?

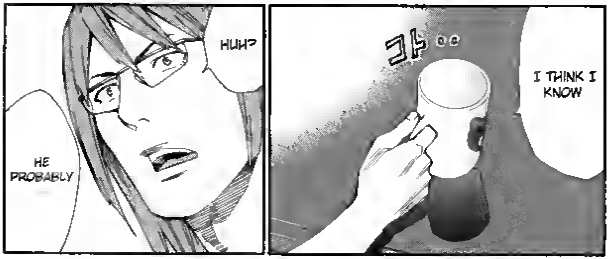
23

HE JUST BLEW ME AWAY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
HOW WAS MIKOTO-CHAN?

TO TELL THE TRUTH, HE GAVE ME GOOSE BUMPS. I CAN'T LET UP NOW!


WELL...
BUT THEN IT'S EVEN WEIRDER! WHY JAPAN??? WHY HEISEI??? SHEESH...
THAT GOOD, HUH...

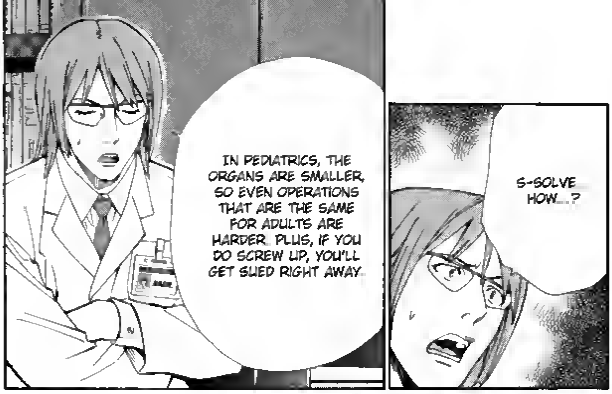
24

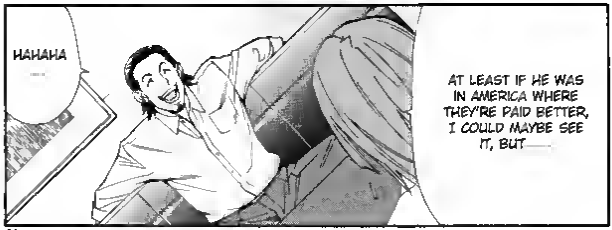

HUH?
HE PROBABLY
コト...
I THINK I KNOW

INTENDS TO SINGLEHANDEDLY SOLVE THE SHORTAGE OF PEDIATRIC SURGEONS.

25

!!


IN PEDIATRICS, THE ORGANS ARE SMALLER, SO EVEN OPERATIONS THAT ARE THE SAME FOR ADULTS ARE HARDER. PLUS, IF YOU DO SCREW UP, YOU'LL GET SUED RIGHT AWAY.
S-SOLVE HOW...?

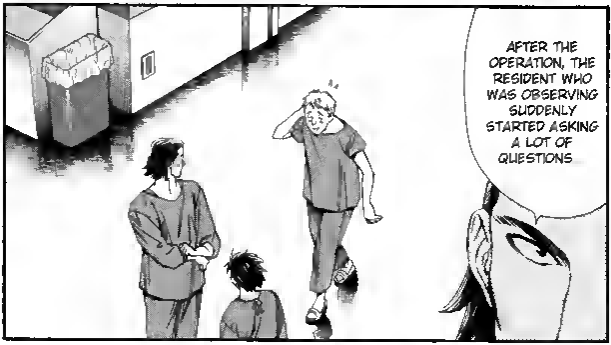

HAHAHA...
AT LEAST IF HE WAS IN AMERICA WHERE THEY'RE PAID BETTER, I COULD MAYBE SEE IT, BUT...

26

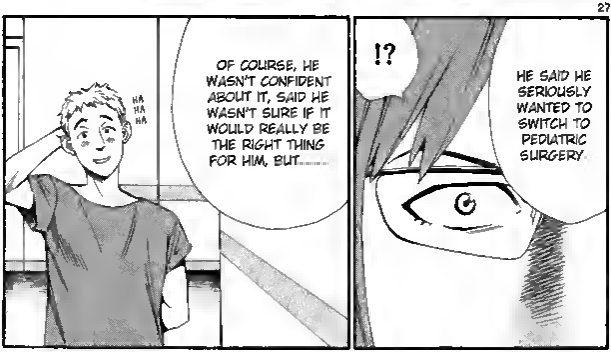
BUT, HE FOUND ANOTHER WAY.
THEN THERE'D ONLY BE AN INCREASE IN GOLD DIGGER PEDIATRICIANS
I THOUGHT SO TOO, BEFORE...
I CAN'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY...

DON'T BE TOO SHOCKED, NOW
?

SFX CREAK


AFTER THE OPERATION, THE RESIDENT WHO WAS OBSERVING SUDDENLY STARTED ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS

27


HA HA HA
OF COURSE, HE WASN'T CONFIDENT ABOUT IT, SAID HE WASN'T SURE IF IT WOULD REALLY BE THE RIGHT THING FOR HIM, BUT.....
!?
HE SAID HE SERIOUSLY WANTED TO SWITCH TO PEDIATRIC SURGERY

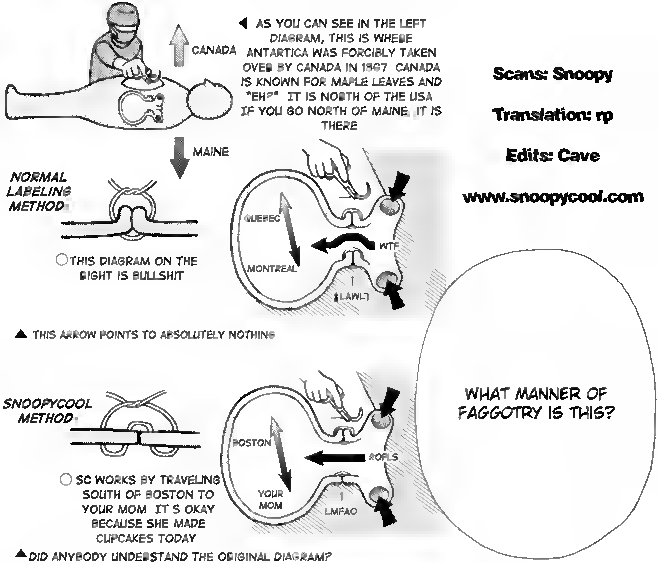
BUT...
EXACTLY
WANTED TO GET INTO ADULT MEDICINE, AND WEREN'T AT ALL INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU DO?
BUT I THOUGHT ALL THE RESIDENTS THAT OBSERVED YOUR SURGERIES

LIKE IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ART... ANYBODY WOULD BE FASCINATED BY SOMEBODY WHO'S POLISHED THEIR SKILL INTO SOMETHING REAL.

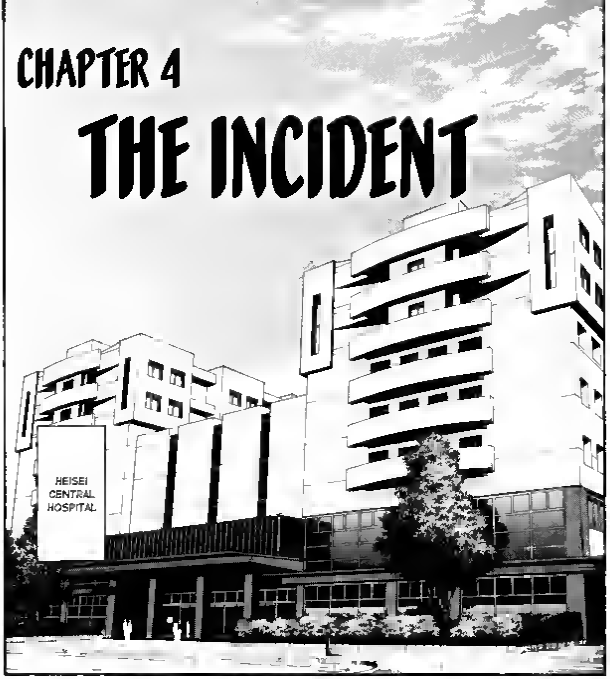
MIKOTO CAN CAPTIVATE EVEN THE MOST BORED RESIDENT
BY SHOWING OTHERS HIS PERFECT TECHNIQUE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO, BUT IT'S REAL.
.....
MERA.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PROTECT THE FUTURE BY HELPING AS MANY KIDS AS I CAN, BUT...
MIKOTO IS AIMING EVEN HIGHER!

HE WILL GO TO THE ROOTS: WHERE THERE ARE MANY YOUNG DOCTORS AND RESIDENTS WHO STILL HAVE TIME TO CHANGE...
AND BECOME A SUN THAT WILL RAISE THOSE ROOTS, AND PROTECT EVEN MORE FUTURES!


CANADA
AS YOU CAN SEE IN THE LEFT DIAGRAM, THIS IS WHERE ANTARTICA WAS FORCIBLY TAKEN OVER BY CANADA IN 1967. CANADA IS KNOWN FOR MAPLE LEAVES AND "EH?". IT IS NORTH OF THE USA IF YOU GO NORTH OF MAINE. IT IS THERE
MAINE
NORMAL LABELING METHOD
THIS DIAGRAM ON THE RIGHT IS BULLSHIT
QUEBEC
WTF
MONTREAL
(LAWL)
THIS ARROW POINTS TO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING
SNOOPYCOOL METHOD
SC WORKS BY TRAVELING SOUTH OF BOSTON TO YOUR MOM. IT'S OKAY BECAUSE SHE MADE CUPCAKES TODAY
BOSTON
ROFLS
YOUR MOM
LMFAO
DID ANYBODY UNDERSTAND THE ORIGINAL DIAGRAM?
WHAT MANNER OF FAGGOTRY IS THIS?
Scans: Snoopy
Translation: rp
Edits: Cave
www.snoopycool.com

CHAPTER 4
THE INCIDENT



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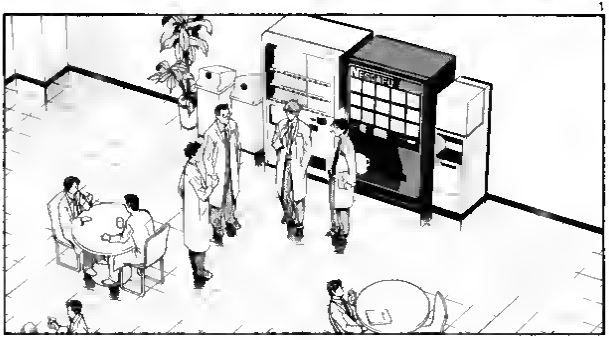


HEAR WHAT?
DID YOU GUYS HEAR?
THE NEW SURGEON THAT'S COMING! HE EARNED THE MSA AWARD IN AMERICA!
HEISEI CENTRAL RESIDENT SENA MARIA

2

YEAH, AND I THINK THE FIRST DOCTOR WAS AN ANESTHESI-OLOGIST OR SOMETHING
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE MUST BE ONLY THE SECOND JAPANESE DOCTOR TO GET THAT AWARD!
SERIOUS-LY?
OH YEAH, I HEARD THAT TOO

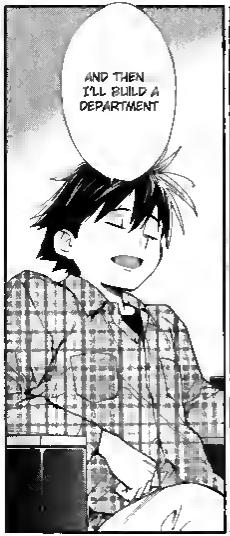
HE'S IN PEDIA-TRICS
PEDIA-TRICS?
HE'D BE THE FIRST SURGEON TO GET IT
OH, I HEARD
I WONDER...
WHAT DEPART-MENT IS HE IN?
3
BUT WHY'S SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON COMING HERE?
Mmm
PEDIATRIC SURGERY'S THE HARDEST, AND THEN HE GETS THE MSA ON TOP OF THAT...
I'M IMPRES-SED
AMA-ZING!
AM I RIGHT?
Won't right?
YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT

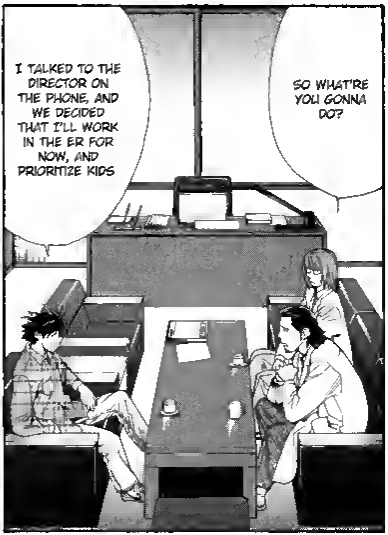
We don't even have a pediatric department
NO PEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT!?
YUP!
YOU KNEW THAT?
OF COURSE!
SAIHAMA HOSPITAL
WHAT!!
IT'S THE BIGGEST HOSPITAL IN THIS AREA, BUT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR, THEY GOT RID OF THE PEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT.
THEY'LL LOOK AT KIDS THAT THE ADULT SPECIALISTS CAN DEAL WITH, AND THE REST GET SENT ELSEWHERE

I WASN'T BUSY BUT I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER
NO SORRY I'VE BEEN SO BUSY

IT WAS ALL OVER THE INTERNET WHEN IT HAPPENED YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
I thought you knew the director there?

5


AND THEN I'LL BUILD A DEPARTMENT


I TALKED TO THE DIRECTOR ON THE PHONE, AND WE DECIDED THAT I'LL WORK IN THE ER FOR NOW, AND PRIORITIZE KIDS
SO WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?

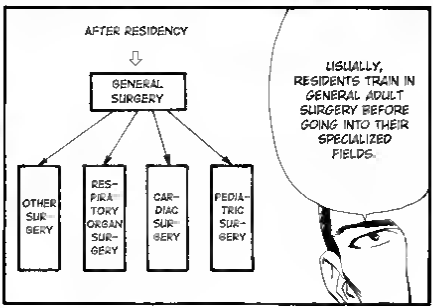
A new pediatric department!

TRUE, BUT...
THEN I CAN HAVE A DEPART-MENT!

THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG DOCTORS AND RESIDENTS THERE, SO I'LL JUST INVITE THEM IN!

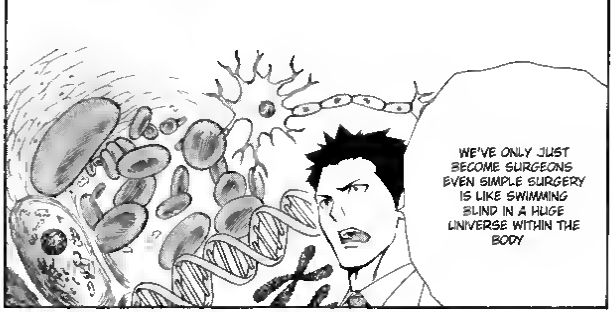
6

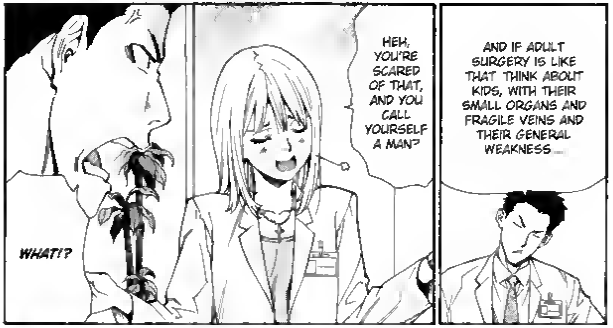
SO IT MAKES SENSE TO GET RESIDENTS TOGETHER TO MAKE A DEPARTMENT. BUT...

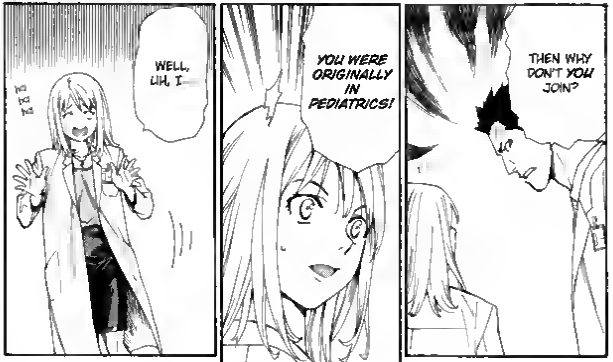

AFTER RESIDENCY
GENERAL SURGERY
OTHER SUR-GERY
RES-PIRA-TORY ORGAN SUR-GERY
CAR-DIAC SUR-GERY
PEDIA-TRIC SUR-GERY
USUALLY, RESIDENTS TRAIN IN GENERAL ADULT SURGERY BEFORE GOING INTO THEIR SPECIALIZED FIELDS.

BUT THAT'S OK, THEY'RE ALL THERE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO SAVE PEOPLE.
GOOD POINT!
IF THERE'S NO DEPARTMENT, NOBODY THERE WANTS TO GET IN TO PEDIATRICS!!
SO HE'S TRYING TO REESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT?
I HOPE SO.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT KIDS AT ALL.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE HEARD.
...

IS THERE ANYBODY HERE...
I GUESS MSA AWARDEES JUST DO THINGS ON A DIFFERENT SCALE
THE DIRECTOR'S PRETTY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IT...
...BUT, DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE?
NESCAFU
WHO WOULD CONSIDER GOING INTO PEDIATRIC SURGERY?
SFX: SILENCE
WELL DUH
SERIOUSLY? NOBODY??


WE'VE ONLY JUST BECOME SURGEONS EVEN SIMPLE SURGERY IS LIKE SWIMMING BLIND IN A HUGE UNIVERSE WITHIN THE BODY

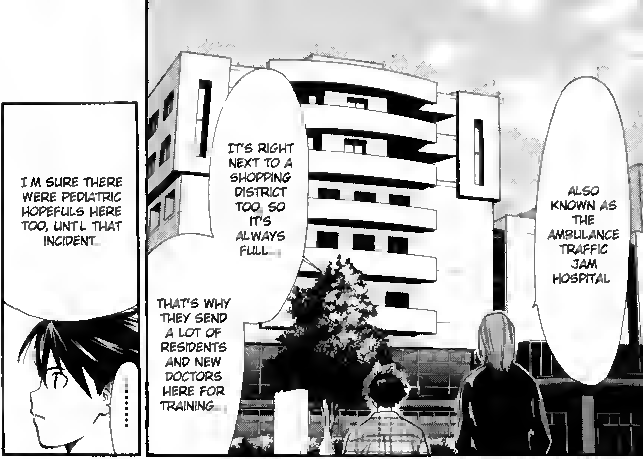

AND IF ADULT SURGERY IS LIKE THAT THINK ABOUT KIDS, WITH THEIR SMALL ORGANS AND FRAGILE VEINS AND THEIR GENERAL WEAKNESS...
HEH, YOU'RE SCARED OF THAT, AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?
WHAT!?

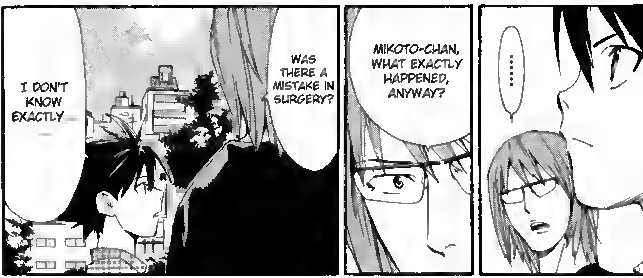

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JOIN?
YOU WERE ORIGINALLY IN PEDIATRICS!
WELL, UH, I...

SENA WAS ONLY WATCHING, BUT SHE WAS THERE WHEN -IT- HAPPENED
KUNIHIRO THAT WENT TOO FAR

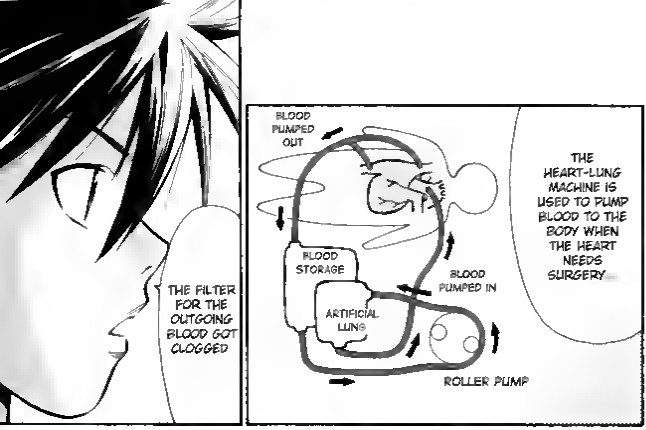
I CAN'T GET OVER MY FEAR FROM THAT DAY...
IT'S OK...
S-SORRY SENA, I...
I'M SCARED TOO
I'M SORRY TOO

NEXT DAY
HERE WE ARE, MIKOTO-CHAN
MAYBE EVEN BIGGER THAN JOHN BOBKINS!
WOW, IT'S HUGE!
WELL IT IS THE BIGGEST HOSPITAL IN JAPAN


I'M SURE THERE WERE PEDIATRIC HOPEFULS HERE TOO, UNTIL THAT INCIDENT...
.....
IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO A SHOPPING DISTRICT TOO, SO IT'S ALWAYS FULL...
THAT'S WHY THEY SEND A LOT OF RESIDENTS AND NEW DOCTORS HERE FOR TRAINING...
ALSO KNOWN AS THE AMBULANCE TRAFFIC JAM HOSPITAL

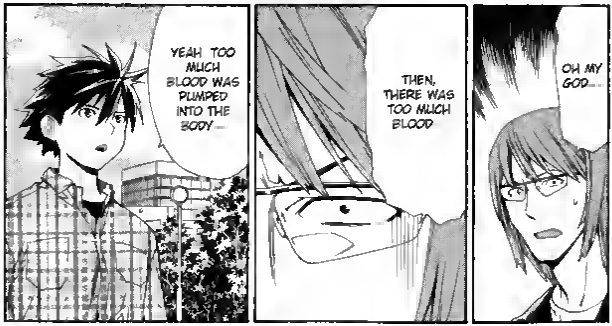

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY...
WAS THERE A MISTAKE IN SURGERY?
MIKOTO-CHAN, WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED, ANYWAY?
.....

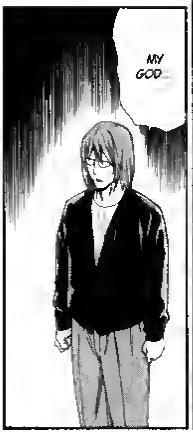
BUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH THE HEART-LUNG MACHINE.


THE FILTER FOR THE OUTGOING BLOOD GOT CLOGGED
BLOOD PUMPED OUT
BLOOD STORAGE
ARTIFICIAL LUNG
BLOOD PUMPED IN
ROLLER PUMP
THE HEART-LUNG MACHINE IS USED TO PUMP BLOOD TO THE BODY WHEN THE HEART NEEDS SURGERY...

ON TOP OF THAT, IT WAS A COMPLICATED PROCEDURE WITH SEVERAL ORGANS BEING WORKED ON, SO BY THE TIME THE STAFF NOTICED... THE BLOOD HAD ALREADY STARTED FLOWING BACKWARD!

13


YEAH TOO MUCH BLOOD WAS PUMPED INTO THE BODY—
THEN, THERE WAS TOO MUCH BLOOD
OH MY GOD...


MY GOD...

!!
AND THE WORST THING POSSIBLE HAPPENED...

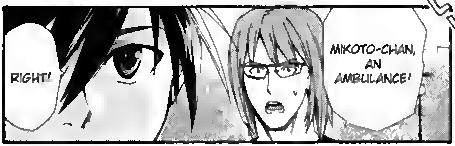
YEAH, REALLY.
IF IT WAS ME I'D WANT TO QUIT BEING A DOCTOR, EVEN IF I WASN'T A SURGEON.

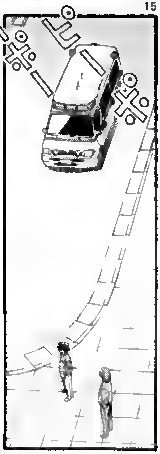
THE FAMILY MUST HAVE BEEN SHOCKED... NOT TO MENTION THE STAFF THERE

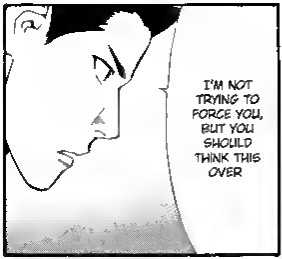
ALL THE NURSES AND DOCTORS THAT WERE THERE QUIT AFTER THAT.

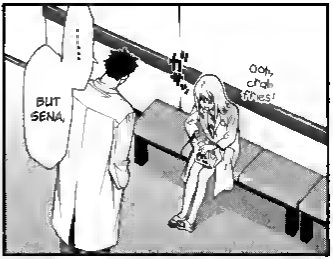
EXCEPT FOR ONE RESIDENT, WHO WAS JUST WATCHING. SHE'S WORKING IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT NOW.

IF SHE HAS ANY DESIRE TO GO BACK TO PEDIATRICS.
YEAH
WOW, TOUGH KID.
I'M GOING TO TRY TO GET HER TO JOIN ME FIRST.
SFX SIRENS


MIKOTO-CHAN, AN AMBULANCE!
RIGHT!







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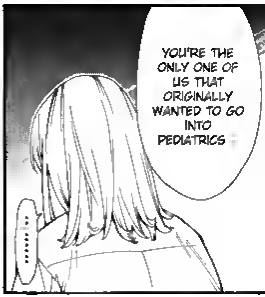
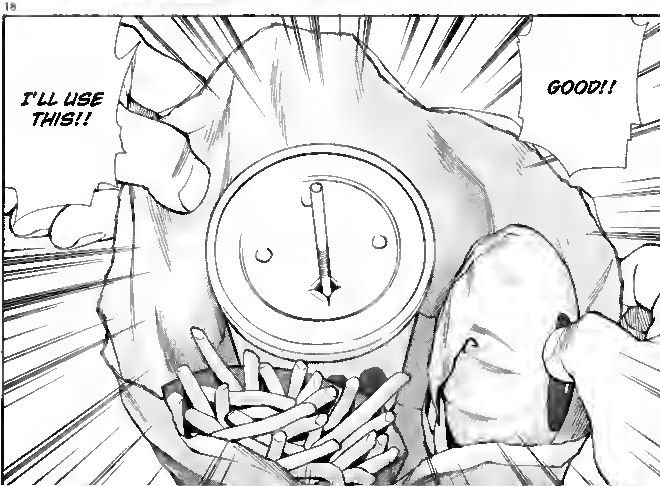
SFX: RUSTLE



IT'S A BIG HOSPITAL. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES WE'LL MEET...
HE'S GOING TO BE IN THE ER FOR A WHILE, AND I'M STILL A RESIDENT...
CRITICAL PATIENT!!
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT SCARES ME...
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN RIGHT NOW...
BUT, STILL,
OH...
17
ARE YOU RESIDENTS!?
Y-YES!
YOU THERE!

!?
2 YEAR OLD BOY.
SWALLOWED A TOY BULLET AND STOPPED BREATHING! HE'S BRADYCARDIA!
*BRADYCARDIA: HAVING AN EXTREMELY LOW PULSE
!!
NO TIME!!
I'LL GO GET A FIBER-SCOPE!

SFX. GRAB


I'LL USE THIS!!
GOOD!!

NO TIME!!
I'LL GO GET A FIBER-SCOPE!
PATIENT IS A 2 YEAR OLD BOY. SWALLOWED A TOY BULLET AND STOPPED BREATHING!
HE'S [illegible]Y CARDIAL
!
SFX: GRAB
I'LL USE THIS!!
GOOD!!
CHAPTER 5:
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

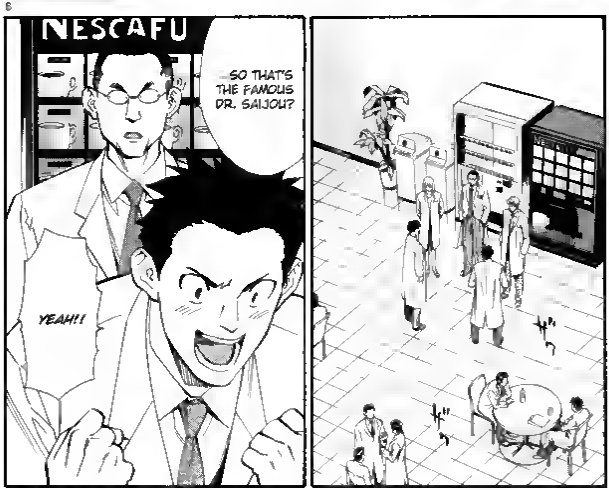
CHAPTER 5:
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
A STRAW!?

I'LL PUSH THE BLOCKAGE DOWN!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH A STRAW!?
THERE!!

ALREADY!?
OKAY, IT'S THROUGH!
BEGINNING HEART MASSAGE!
RIGHT!!
AMBU BAG!!

BREATH-ING RESUMED !!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HE WAS SO FAST—!!
HE'LL BE FINE NOW JUST HAVE TO GET THE BALL OUT WITH THE ER'S FIBER.
I'M ON IT!
U-UM !!
UM
WHO ARE YOU?

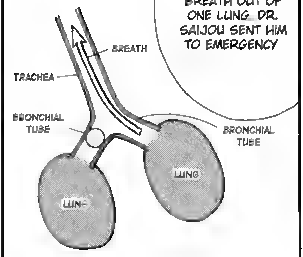
I'M SAIJOU MIKOTO
I'LL BE WORKING IN THE ER, STARTING TODAY
TH... THIS IS THE GUY...!!


NESCAFU
SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS DR. SAIJOU?
YEAH!!

THE PATIENT HAD A TOY BULLET STUCK IN HIS WINDPIPE...

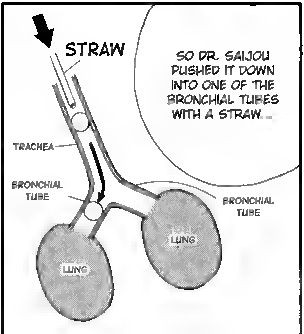
HE WAS INCREDIBLE! I'M ALREADY A FAN...

ONCE HE COULD BREATH OUT OF ONE LUNG, DR. SAIJOU SENT HIM TO EMERGENCY



※ ONCE IT S IN ONE OF THE BRONCHIAL TUBES, THE OTHER LUNG CAN WORK

SO DR. SAIJOU PUSHED IT DOWN INTO ONE OF THE BRONCHIAL TUBES WITH A STRAW...



※ NEITHER LUNG CAN WORK WITH THE BALL STUCK IN THE TRACHEA

HE DIDN'T EVEN USE A LARYNGOSCOPE, BUT HE EASILY PUSHED A STRAW ALL THE WAY INTO THE TRACHEA

IN OTHER WORDS

ONCE BREATHING STOPS, THE HEART STOPS IN ABOUT 30 TO 40 SECONDS AND ONCE THAT HAPPENS BRAIN DAMAGE CAN OCCUR

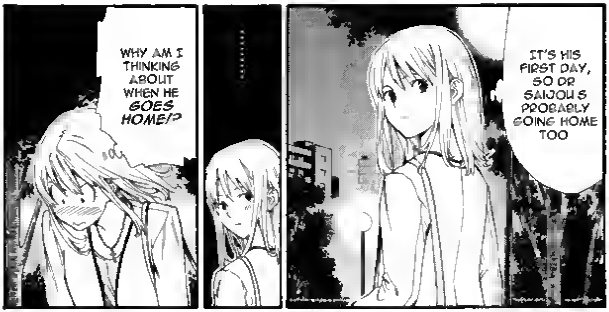
RIGHT?
WOW. AMAZ-ING...
NOBODY BUT DR. SAIJOU COULD HAVE SAVED THAT CHILD
AND ON TOP OF THAT WHEN HE USED THE FIBER TO TAKE THE BALL OUT
...
HE'S LIKE A GOD
SERI-OUSLY!?
HE BARELY EVEN LOOKED AT THE MONITOR, BUT HE STILL DID IT SUCCESSFULLY

I LOST ALL MY CONFI-DENCE
.....
YOU WERE JUST A HELPER, BUT YOU'RE A HERO TOO!
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, SENA?
YOU LOOK DOWN
EVEN THOUGH TODAY'S HIS FIRST DAY, DR. SAIJOU WAS SO CONFIDENT ABOUT SUCH A DIFFICULT PATIENT...
SFX SQUEEZE
...CUZ,
HUH!?
...I, I GUESS...
I MEAN, EVEN WITH THAT HORRIBLE ACCIDENT, I GAVE UP PEDIATRICS SO EASILY... COMPARED TO HIM, I'M...

BUT, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD COMPARE YOURSELF LIKE THAT
WHY NOT?
I DON'T THINK HE CAN BE THAT MUCH OLDER THAN ME
YEAH BUT STILL...
A RESIDENT IN AMERICA WILL EXPERIENCE MANY MORE CASES THAN ONE IN JAPAN
AND HE GOT THE MSA TOO... IT'LL TAKE A LOT TO CATCH UP TO THE EXPERIENCE AND SKILL HE'S AMASSED
.....
10
...EXPERI-ENCE AND SKILL...
WELL OBVIOUSLY HE'S MORE EXPERIENCED BUT...

PLUS THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE... I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT...
BUT FROM WHAT I SAW, I THINK HIS SKILL AND TALENT IS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE...
HE'S DIFFERENT SOMEHOW...

FINALLY TIME TO GO HOME!


WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT WHEN HE GOES HOME!?
IT'S HIS FIRST DAY, SO DR SAIJOU S PROBABLY GOING HOME TOO
I SHOULD JUST AVOID HIM FOR NOW! YEAH, GOOD PLAN
IT WAS REALLY BUSY TODAY, SO WE DION'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK BUT IF HE ASKS ME TO JOIN THE PEDIATRICS DEPARTMENT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

12

D... DR. SAIJOU !!
HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
DD
DD
DD
FWAGH
?

!!!
I'M SORRY CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO HEISEI STATION?

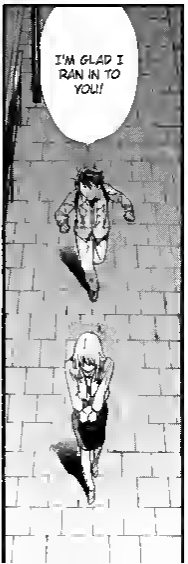
HEY, WAIT...
S... SORRY.

S... SURE.

GREAT !!
CAN I GO WITH YOU?
H... HEISEI STATION? I'M ACTUALLY ON MY WAY THERE NOW...

13

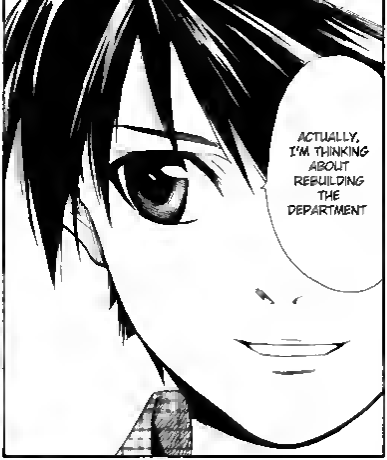
I, I SEE...
YOU SEE, TODAY WAS MY FIRST DAY OF WORK... MY FRIEND DROVE ME HERE IN THE MORNING, SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE STATION IS YET

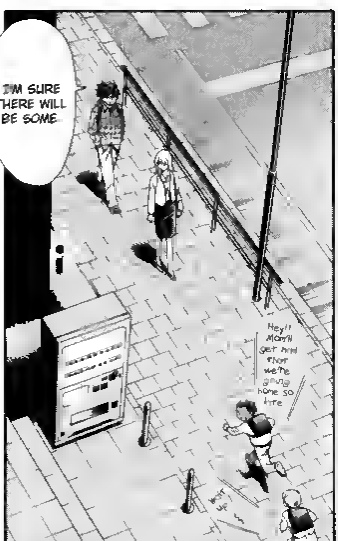

I'M GLAD I RAN IN TO YOU!!

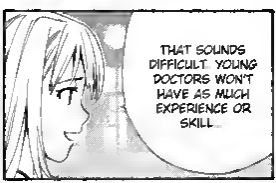
?
YEAH! IT'S DARK AND I'M WEARING NORMAL CLOTHES...
WAIT...
HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT'S ME?

I'M IN PEDIATRIC SURGERY
YES!
FIRST DAY? SO YOU'RE A DOCTOR AT HEISEI HOSPITAL?
WELL THAT'S FINE. I'LL JUST PRETEND I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM EITHER
WAIT HOW?
PEDIA-TRICS...
14
CAREFUL. CAREFUL.
W-WELL, IT WAS A PRETTY FAMOUS STORY...
OHO HO HO HO
I THOUGHT THAT HOSPITAL DIDN'T HAVE THAT DEPARTMENT ANY MORE
WOW, I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW

THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG DOCTORS THERE SO I WANT TO TRY RECRUITING THEM.
WELL...


ACTUALLY, I'M THINKING ABOUT REBUILDING THE DEPARTMENT


I'M SURE THERE WILL BE SOME
Hey!! Mom!! Get him! Ever we're going home so late


THAT SOUNDS DIFFICULT. YOUNG DOCTORS WON'T HAVE AS MUCH EXPERIENCE OR SKILL...

15

AND DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND ENOUGH PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED?
WHY AM I ASKING??

NALL
I'VE ALREADY GOT MY EYE ON SOMEBODY, TOO
YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED
AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR A DOCTOR TO HAVE ISN'T EXPERIENCE OR SKILL
THIS OUGHTA BE GOOD
REALLY? THEN WHAT IS?
!?
YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED TO KILL, AND PREPARED TO DIE

SFX: SLIP
OW!
FOR EXAMPLE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION...
HURRY!
AND DOCTORS CAN CATCH THEIR PATIENTS' ILLNESSES...
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO TAKE SOMEWHAT ROUGH MEASURES TO TREAT THE PATIENT. THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THEY MIGHT DIE FROM IT

SFX: NOD
HE WENT THAT FAR
AND THEN STOPPED

BE-
CAUSE
BUT I KNEW WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY
BECAUSE WHAT DR. SAIJOU DID THEN WAS THE ESSENCE OF BEING A DOCTOR
DR. SAIJOU !!!

((((EXTRA ♡ MAKING OF MOST BEST SURGEON))))

NOT A CHANCE!
I REALLY WANT TO WRITE A SERIOUS MANGA!
WOW... WAIT... WHY DON'T YOU LET ME WRITE A WEEKLY ABOUT THAT!
IT'S A WASTE AS A ONE-SHOT
...SO, WE TRIED OUT A ONE-SHOT ABOUT IT IN THE SUNDAY SUPER SPECIAL EDITION
I FIRST HEARD OF THE SHORTAGE OF PEDIATRIC SURGEONS FROM K FROM EDITING 8 YEARS AGO
..OH ...I SEE
I will assist you
UNLESS YOU FIND A DOCTOR WHO HAS SOME KIND OF STORY IDEA OR SKILL WITH MANGA TO SUPERVISE, YOU CAN'T REALLY MAKE A WEEKLY
THERE'D HAVE TO BE SEVERAL EDITORS FOR ONE AUTHOR...
Editor
Editor
Author
Editor
Editor
Ed.-in-C
IT'S REALLY HARD TO COME UP WITH MEDICAL STORIES, AND YOU CAN'T MAKE A MISTAKE.
K
CALM DOWN... HEAR ME OUT.
WH-WHAT!?
(A LA KAWACHI)
I SEE... BREAD...
SO, START WITH BREAD
SFX: RUMMBLE
AND SO, FOR SOME REASON, "YAKITATE!! JAPAN" BEGAN
WTF ...
OH JAPAN THE TIME IS NOW!
WHILE YOU'RE WORKING ON THE BREAD, I'LL FIND AND RAISE THE ULTIMATE MAN WHO HAS THE RESEARCH AND IMAGINATIVE SKILLS TO HELP YOU...
K

AND SO... THAT MAN BECAME... FOR THIS MANGA... THE... WELL... YOU'LL FIND OUT IN VOLUME 2♡

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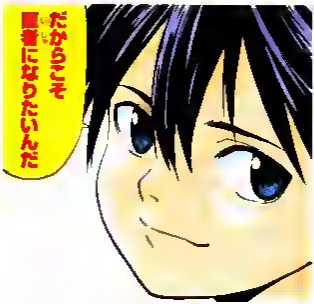

幼い頃、命を救われたことをきっかけに
最高の小児外科医になることを決めた少年・西條 命…
少年の夢は偉大な男との出会いによって志に変わり、
いつしか周囲の人間たちをも巻き込んで無限の広がりをみせていく…
勇気と感動、覚悟と情熱の物語の幕が今、開かれる!

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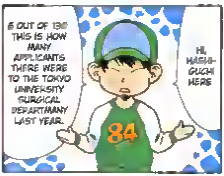
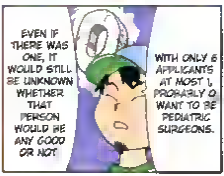
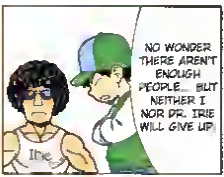
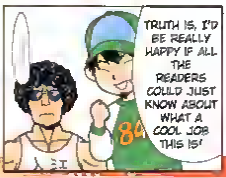

6 OUT OF 130 THIS IS HOW MANY APPLICANTS THERE WERE TO THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY SURGICAL DEPARTMANY LAST YEAR.
HI, HASHIGUCHI HERE
84


EVEN IF THERE WAS ONE, IT WOULD STILL BE UNKNOWN WHETHER THAT PERSON WOULD BE ANY GOOD OR NOT.
WITH ONLY 6 APPLICANTS AT MOST I PROBABLY'D WANT TO BE PEDIATRIC SURGEONS.





NOTE: THIS IS A REFERENCE TO YAKITATE!! JAPAN

橋口たかし

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LOGO & COVER DESIGN 安斉 晋+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ